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A BRIEF HISTORY

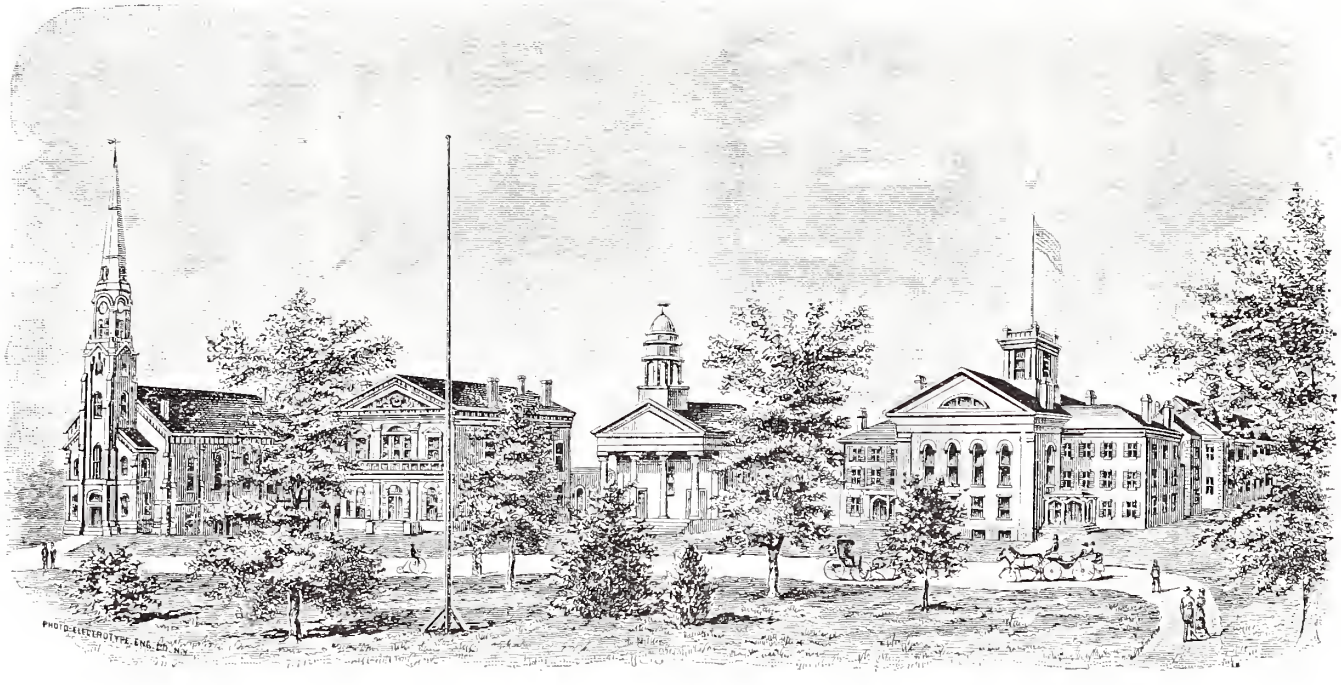
OF

LEICESTER,

MASSACHUSETTS,

BY REV. A. H. COOLIDGE.

1890.



First Congregational Church. Town Hall. Unitarian Church. Leicester Academy.

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PREFACE.

The brief history of Leicester, contained in this volume, originally appeared in the "History of Worcester County," published in the spring of 1889, by J. W. Lewis & Co., of Philadelphia. It was written under the disadvantage of such stringent limitations of space and time as were prescribed by the publishers of that work. In consequence of urgent haste in issuing the volumes, the time given for correction of proofs was altogether inadequate; and consequently some errors and misprints remained in the text, which would otherwise have been corrected. The whole sketch has now been carefully reviewed, some parts have been revised, and reprinted, and considerable additions have been made in an appendix.

In preparing the earlier history of the town, free use has been made of the "Historical Sketches of the Town of Leicester," and of the other historical researches of Governor Emory Washburn, as well as of Joseph A. Denny, Esq. To both of these gentlemen the town owes a debt of lasting gratitude for the preservation of facts, incidents, reminiscences and traditions, in which the town is peculiarly rich.

The writer has had access to the valuable revolutionary and other manuscripts in the possession of Miss Harriet E. Henshaw, to other documents and periodicals of the last century, and to historical volumes and pamphlets published since the issue of Washburn's History; and has thus been able to add something of interest even to the early history of the town. The later facts of our local history have been gathered from many individuals and sources.

The endeavor throughout has been to present in a brief continuous narrative the scattered facts and incidents thus collected.

The ecclesiastical history, though condensed, will be found, it is believed, more complete and accurate than any hitherto published. In this part of the work the writer has had the generous and scholarly aid of the several clergymen and others, to whom credit is elsewhere given.

In that part of the work which relates to the Academy, and the public schools, free use has been made of the productions of Governor Washburn, Joseph A. Denny, Hon. W. W. Rice, Luther Wright and others, whose printed sketches are noticed in the body of the work. To this has been added a continuation of the history of the Academy, the schools, and the Public Library, to the present time.

The history of card manufacture and the town of Leicester are to a large extent identical, and no apology is necessary for the prominence given to an industry which has contributed so largely to the welfare of the place. The periods of greatest prosperity in this business, were those of and following the wars of 1812 and 1861. By the aid of gentlemen in the business, or familiar with the story of its development, some valuable items have been added to the history of this interesting branch of manufacture.

The history of our woolen manufacture, now much the largest business in town, has never before been written. Through the active interest and co-operation of gentlemen now, or formerly, connected with the several firms, detailed statements have been secured in relation to

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the ten woolen mills in town, the annual products of which as shown from figures furnished by the different companies, amount to not far from $1,286,000.

No chapter of this history has been prepared with deeper interest, or more careful search and comparison of authorities, than that which relates to the part which Leicester and Leicester men bore in the Civil War. The aim has been to gather, before it should be too late, whatever facts relating to this subject could be gleaned from various sources; and, as far as could be ascertained, to place on record, and preserve for posterity, the name of every man who enlisted from, or for Leicester. After the lapse of a quarter of a century, it is probably impossible to make such a list complete. In the earlier years of the war, the assignment of enlisted men was confused; and the lists and records both of the state and the town are incomplete. The results as secured in this history, have been attained only by careful and laborious examination, and comparison of town reports, the record of soldiers and officers in the military and naval service, lists of soldiers and families receiving state aid, enlistment papers, regimental and other histories, papers of the time, statements of soldiers and personal recollections. The private journal of Joseph A. Denny, Esq., kindly loaned by the family, has been especially serviceable. Not only the writer, but the public, are indebted to Capt: J. D. Cogswell and H. A. White, Esq., whose labors in rectifying the lists and records of soldiers, and obtaining facts, have been unremitting, and who have rendered important aid in the preparation of this part of the history. It is hoped that its publication will, by calling attention to the subject, lead to still further verification and amplification.

The work of gathering these materials, and setting them in order, for this history, has been a labor of love, only feebly expressive of appreciative gratitude to those whose patriotic devotion, sacrifices, heroism and sufferings contributed to the preservation of our union and our liberties.

The character and limits of the original sketch did not admit any endeavor to trace the genealogies of the several families in town, nor to dwell much upon the lives of individuals, except as they came in contact with affairs of public interest.

It should be understood that the writer is not in any way responsible for the selection of those whose portraits and sketches are found in the closing pages of the history. These were introduced by special arrangement of the publishers with the individuals themselves, or with their friends. They add to the value of the volume, but there have been, and are other citizens of the town who are worthy of similar notice.

In collecting the materials for this history, the writer has been dependent upon the generous aid of many individuals. He is especially indebted to Dr. Pliny Earle whose friendly assistance from the first, has been of invaluable service; and whose direct communications add much to the interest of the record.

The work is now presented to the people of Leicester, as a small contribution to the history of a community which has, from the first, held an honorable position among the New England towns.

A. H. COOLIDGE.

Leicester, January 1, 1890.

THE HISTORY OF LEICESTER.

BY REV. A. H. COOLIDGE.

LEICESTER.

CHAPTER I.

SETTLEMENT.

Location—Indian Deed—Proprietors—Incorporation—Settlement—Hardships—Snow Storm—Thomas Green—Struggles—Rural Life—Houses—Mills—Lovell's War—Fortified Houses—Discouragements—Spencer "set off," also parts of Paxton and Auburn—Cyclone.

THE town of Leicester stands upon the ridge of the water-shed of Central Massachusetts, one thousand and seven feet above the sea level. Its waters flow easterly, through Lynde and Kettle Brooks, into the Blackstone River; southerly, through French River, into the Quinebaug and Thames, and westerly from Shaw Pond, through the Chicopee River, into the Connecticut. Lynde Brook Reservoir, on the east, is one of the sources of water supply for Worcester, and Shaw Pond, on the west, is the source of the supply for Spencer. Leicester is about forty-eight miles from Boston. It is six miles west of Worcester and five hundred feet above that city. Its location is 42° 14′ 49″ north latitude, and 71° 54′ 47″ west longitude.

Its villages are the Centre, at first called Strawberry Hill; Cherry Valley, two miles east of the Centre, generally so-called since 1820; Rochdale, at first South Leicester, named Clappville, from Joshua Clapp, who purchased the mill property in 1829, and changed to Rochdale in November, 1869; Greenville, which about the middle of the present century began to be so called from its founder, Captain Samuel Green; Mannville, two miles north of the Centre, which was named after Mr. Billings Mann about the year 1856; and Lakeside, which has come to be so called within a few years. The northeast part of the town is called "Mulberry Grove," the name being first given in 1827 to the estate of ~~Silas~~ Earle, on which he raised mulberry trees and produced silk from the silk-worm.

At the time of its original purchase the township of Leicester was a part of the extended domain of the Nipmuck tribe of Indians. The character of this tribe had been greatly changed, and many of its members had been converted to Christianity through the labors of John Eliot and Daniel Gookin. Gookin, in his "Historical Collections," mentions seven "new praying towns" among the Nipmuck Indians. One of these was in Oxford and another was Pacachoag, in Worcester and the southeastern border of Leicester. That the Indians of Leicester had been brought under the same influences is indicated by the fact that one of the signers of the deed is styled "deacon." Few Indian relics have been found here, there are few Indian traditions, and there is little to indicate that the place ever had a considerable native population, although it was of sufficient importance to have a sachem.

The Massachusetts Colony, like the Plymouth, recognized the claim of the aborigines to the land, and secured it of them by fair purchase. The territory embracing Leicester, Spencer, a part of Paxton and a small portion of Auburn was bought of the Indians by nine gentlemen of Roxbury and vicinity, who became the original "Associate Proprietors." The sachem, Oraskaso, had recently died, and the deed is signed by his heirs. The price paid for the land was fifteen pounds, New England money.

The deed is an interesting historical document. It declares

That the heirs of Oraskaso, Sachem of a place called Towtaid, situate and lying near the new town of the English, called Worcester, with all others which may, under them, belong unto the same place aforesaid, Towtaid, these heirs being two women, with their husbands, newly married; which, being by name called Philip Tray, with his wife, Momokhue; and John Wampkson, with Waiwaynom, his wife, for divers good causes and considerations us thereunto moving; and more especially for and in consideration of the sum of fifteen pounds, current money of New England to us in hand paid by Joshua Lamb, Nathaniel Page, Andrew Gardner, Benjamin Gamblin, Benjamin Tucker, John Curtice, Richard Draper and Samuel Ruggles, with Ralf Bradhurst, of Roxbury, in the county of Suffolk, in New England, the receipt of which we do fully acknowledge ourselves to be fully satisfied and paid, have given —— a certain tract of land containing, by estimation, eight miles square, situate, lying and being near Worcester aforesaid, abutting southerly, on the lands of Joseph Dudley, Esq., lately purchased of the Indians; and westerly, the most southernmost corner of a little pond called Paupakquamcock, then to a hill called Wakapokotowmow, and from thence to a little hill called Mossonachud, and unto a great hill, called Aspomsok; and so then easterly, upon a line, until it comes against Worcester bounds, and joins unto their bounds; or howsoever otherwise abutted and bounded, &c.

In witness whereof, the said Philip Tray and Momokhue, and John Wampscon, Waiwaynow, being their wives, have hereunto set their hands and seals, this twenty-seventh day of January, *anno Domini*, one thousand six hundred and eighty-six.

Signed, sealed and delivered, in presence of us:

PHILLIP TRAY × his mark. [Seal.]
MOMOKHUE TRAY × her mark. [Seal.]
JOHN WAMSCON. [Seal.]
WAIWAYNOW WAMSCON × her mark. [Seal.]
WANDWOAMAG, × the deacon, his mark. [Seal.]
JONAS, his × wife's mark. [Seal.]

TOM TRAY × his mark.
NONAWANO × his mark.
CAPT. MOOGUS × his mark.
ANDREW PITTEME × his mark.

The deed was acknowledged before William Stoughton, "one of his Majesty's Council, of his territory and dominions of New England," June 1, 1687.

Twenty-seven years afterward the number of proprie-

tors was increased to twenty-two. They were men of wealth and influence, and some of them were owners of large tracts of land in other towns of Central Massachusetts. None of them ever settled in Leicester. The purchase was a pecuniary investment, but was also designed to encourage the speedy settlement of the province.

The speculative venture was, however, for a long time unremunerative, and Towtaid remained for almost twenty-seven years an unbroken wilderness. The period was unpropitious for interior settlement, and it was well that none was undertaken. Leicester was thus saved from perils and horrors to which other towns were subjected, while her primeval forests waited in silence for more peaceful occupation. Under the influence of the Christian religion, the Nipmuck Indians had become a peaceable and friendly people; but upon the outbreak of King Phillip's War, they became divided and broken. That wily and powerful chief came among them, and by persuasions and threats, and by the force of his fiery eloquence, won a portion of them to his cause. Many of them remained true to their English neighbors; but others followed their great leader. Their savage instincts were reawakened, they took the war-path, and brought disaster and ruin to the scattered settlements. In this, and the successive French and Indian Wars, all the earlier settlements of Central Massachusetts were broken up. Worcester was twice attacked, and the colonists killed or driven out. Lancaster was burned, and its people massacred. Brookfield suffered the same fate; and the interesting colony of Huguenots in Oxford, were attacked, and forced to abandon their homes, their vineyards, their church and the burial-place of their dead.

There was little encouragement in circumstances so adverse to seek homes on the bleak hills of Leicester, in the heart of the Indian territory.

After the close of the French war in 1713, measures were taken to make the grant available. The original deed was recorded March 8th, 1713-14. The title had been confirmed by the General Court, February 15th, with the usual conditions, that portions of the land should be reserved for the Gospel ministry, and for a school, and that within seven years fifty families should settle themselves, with reasonable provision for self-defence, on a part of the land. This was a virtual, and indeed is the only, act of incorporation of the town of Leicester.

The early English explorers found on Leicester hill a luxuriant growth of strawberries, and therefore gave the place the name of Strawberry Hill, which it had hitherto retained. It now received the name of Leicester, and was assigned to Middlesex County. It was on the 23d day of the same month that the number of proprietors was increased from nine to twenty-two. At this meeting the proprietors voted to offer one-half of the town to settlers, and chose a committee, consisting of Colonel William Dudley, Captain Joshua Lamb, Captain Thomas Howe and Captain Samuel Ruggles, to determine which half should be opened for settlement, and which should be reserved for later and more advantageous sale. They decided to offer for occupation the eastern half. On the 14th day of May the allotment was made; and the next day the committee came to Leicester to locate the lots. In June the township was, by order of the General Court, surveyed by John Chandler, "to fix the bounds."

Fifty "house-lots," of from thirty to fifty acres each, were laid out, and sold for one shilling an acre, with "after rights" of one hundred acres for each ten acres of "house-lot." Thus the purchaser secured a farm of five hundred and fifty acres for fifty shillings. The lots were to be settled in three years or forfeited for the benefit of the public. One lot of forty acres was to be reserved for the ministry, one of one hundred acres for schools, and three lots of thirty acres each for mills.

Special grants were also made of seven and a half acres of "meadow," to each lot, for "feed." These meadows were evidently regarded as of special value; but the event has proved that the hilly ridges and slopes are more productive. The cedar swamps were left undivided.

The lots were numbered, and the purchasers drew for choice. The first choice was drawn by John Stebbins. He chose the lot on Strawberry Hill, on which the house of Rev. Samuel May now stands. Here the first house in town was probably built.

At a meeting of the proprietors, held July 23, 1722 a committee of the proprietors was appointed to convey deeds to those who had complied with the terms of purchase. The deed itself was not, however, executed till January 11, 1724, (O. S.), more than forty-seven years after the purchase of the town. It was recorded November 29, 1729.

The names of purchasers were John Stebbins, Joseph Stebbins, James Wilson, Samuel Green, Arthur Carey, Moses Stockbridge, Hezekiah Russ, John Peters, William Brown, Thomas Hopkins, Daniel Denny, John Smith, Ralph Earle, Nathanie, Kanney, Samuel Stimpson, Benjamin Woodbridge, John Lynde, Josiah Winslow, Josiah Langdon, Joshua Henshaw, Joseph Parsons, Nathaniel Richardson, John Menzies, Joseph Sargent, Daniel Livermore, James Southgate, Daniel Parker, William Brown, Thomas Baker, Richard Southgate, William Green, Samuel Prince, Dorothy Friar, Thomas Dexter, William Kean, James Winslow, Stephen Winchester, Paul Dudley, John King.

Thomas Baker and Joseph Parsons did not settle in Leicester.

These men and their families, and those who had already joined them, together with those who soon afterward united their fortunes with the infant colony, were the founders of Leicester. Some of them were men of superior quality. To the hardships and toils

of these pioneer families, to their intellectual and moral character and their Christian fortitude, the town is largely indebted for its prosperity and its worthy standing and honorable history.

The settlement of the place began soon after the allotment was made. In a few instances the purchasers engaged families to hold the lots for them, but others took direct possession.

According to early traditions, the first inhabitants found upon their arrival a solitary hermit, named Arthur Carey, living on the hill which from him was named Carey's Hill. Whitney, in his County History, states that he "went thither and digged a cave in the side of this hill, and lived there as a hermit many years, while that part of the country was in its wilderness state." What were his feelings when his solitude was disturbed by the approach of civilization no one now can tell, nor what had been the romance or the tragedy of his life, nor why he had retired from the world and buried himself in the lonely forest.

Leicester was then an unbroken wilderness. Worcester was just beginning, for the third time, to be resettled. There was no settlement of whites, except Brookfield, between Leicester and the Connecticut River. Bears and wolves and wild-cats and moose and other wild beasts roamed undisturbed in the forests, and the place was infested with serpents. The dams and curious homes of the beaver were long afterward visible in the meadows. There were, as late as 1740, pits for the capture of wolves; and the names "Moose Hill," "Raccoon Hill" and "Rattlesnake Hill" are suggestive of realities familiar to the early inhabitants, while "Bald Hill" stood peculiar as a tract of land which had been already cleared.

The first town-meeting of which there is any record was on March 6, 1721–22, although meetings had evidently been held for two or three years previously. A meeting-house had already been built. Judge John Menzes had served the town in the General Court the year before, and was re-elected the two succeeding years. He declined any remuneration for his services, "being fully satisfied and paid." The precedent thus established was so popular that when, in 1724, a successor was to be elected, it was voted that whoever should be chosen "should be paid the same as Judge Menzes and no other." Lieutenant Thomas Newhall was then elected "to serve on the above conditions."

At the first recorded town-meeting Samuel Green was chosen moderator, first selectman, first assessor and grand juror. The town offices then were the same as those now filled at town-meeting. Two tithingmen were also elected to keep order in the meeting-house.

At first the families were sheltered in rude log-houses. The first impression which one of these houses made upon the mind of a little child is indicative of their outward aspect. Daniel Henshaw came to Leicester about thirty-four years after its first settlement to take possession of a house already built for the family. The household goods had been moved from Boston on an ox-cart. As the family approached the house, by the narrow cart-path, the little daughter exclaimed "Oh, father, this is Leicester jail, isn't it?" In this household was a dog, named Hero, which came with the family from Boston. There was then no regular means of communication with the outside world, and Hero was for several years the mail-carrier of the family. Receiving verbal instructions as to his destination, he hastened at a rapid pace to Boston, with letters fastened to his neck, delivered them as directed, and after rest and refreshment returned with letters to the home friends.

In February and March of 1717, when there were only a few families here, and these were provided with hardly more than temporary shelters, the whole of New England was visited with a series of snow storms of almost unparalleled severity. For several weeks no mails could reach Boston, and when they came they were brought by men on snow-shoes. The low houses were covered so that in some cases the chimneys could not be seen. Families for days were prisoners in their own houses, and first made their exit from the attic windows. Many domestic animals perished, and some were said to have been rescued alive weeks afterward. After the storm ceased, cattle could be seen walking over drifts twelve feet deep, and feeding upon twigs on the tops of trees. Such was the welcome of these hills to the men and women who settled Leicester.

It was not far from this time that Dr. Thomas Green, then a boy of eighteen years, was left alone, in the summer, in charge of his father's cattle. Attacked with a fever, he sheltered himself under a shelving rock, by the stream on which his father's mill afterward stood. Here, alone in the wilderness, his shrewdness saved him. He tied one of the calves within reach, and as the cow came to it, nourished himself with her milk. In this distressing condition he remained till found by passing land-owners, in the vicinity. They hastened on to inform his friends. His father at once came and removed him back to Malden, on horseback—a four days' journey.

The progress of the settlement for many years was slow. Its location was isolated, and the people, on their scattered farms, must have been lonely in the extreme. Expected and unexpected difficulties opposed their prosperity. The soil was hard and cold, although in many parts rich and strong. They cut down the forests and cleared the fields, they were busy "breaking stubble," "ditching meddows," "splitting ye hills," and making roads. They struggled with rocks, and winds, and snow, and suffered from cold, the degrees of which there were no thermometers to mark. Portions of the town were infested with rattlesnakes, and as now there were various enemies to vegetation. A bounty of "Six Pence pr. hed" was voted by the town "for killing Rattel Snakes." In one year, nearly a quarter of a century after the incor-

poration of the town, Benjamin Richardson received eleven shillings as a bounty for killing twenty-eight rattlesnakes; and in 1740 the town paid in bounties forty-one pounds and three pence "for killing rattlesnakes, jays, red and gray squirrels, red-headed woodpeckers, and black birds," and even then there were "pits" for the capture of wolves.

The life of the town in the last century was primitive and rural. The cattle ran at large, and the office of "hog reeve" was no sinecure. In the town records are voluminous minutes of the special marks which each person adopted to distinguish his own cattle; and of the horses, cows, hogs, "hiffers," "steares," etc., which had "strayed" and were "taken up in damiag." The question annually came up whether "horses might go at large, being fettered and clogged as the law directs," and whether "hoggs" should "go at large, yoked and ringed as the law directs."

Even the best of the houses were devoid of architectural attractions, and of the conveniences and comforts which we regard essential. They are described as "small, low one-story buildings," with a "front room and kitchen," and in some cases an added bedroom. The hinges of the doors were of wood; there were no handles; and the wooden latch was raised by a "latch string" passing through a hole to the outside. The fire in the immense fire-places served to scorch one side, while the other was freezing. The hard necessities of frontier afforded little opportunity for adornment.

The people generally rode on horseback, the women often seated behind the men on pillions. In 1790 a lady, attended by her husband, rode from Leicester to Vermont on horseback, holding a child two years old in her arms. In 1733 there were four chairs in town. Daniel Henshaw's family came to Leicester in a chaise in 1748. In his account-book that year and onward there are charges for the use of a "chair." The rate from Leicester to Boston or Malden was three pounds. There was not a "buggy wagon" in town till 1810. Books were rare. Thomas Earle was repairing watches in 1768 and later. In Daniel Henshaw's account-book is a memorandum of his verbal agreement to "take care," for a year "of his watch when wanted, for one cord of wood." Watches, clocks and looking-glasses, however, were evidently rare. The hour-glass measured the hours, and "dinner-time" was indicated by the shadow at the "noon-mark" on the window-sill.

In 1722 the town voted that if Joseph Parsons would build a "corn-mill it should not be taxed." The mill was soon afterward erected at the outlet of "Town Meadow," where Sargent's brick factory now stands. The first saw-mill was built by Captain Samuel Green, at Greenville. He also, in 1724, built a grist-mill on the same stream, where Draper's grist-mill now stands. The "Mill lot" of Thomas Richardson also came, probably, into his possession, so that he became the owner of the original mill lots. The second saw-mill was built by Richard Southgate, in Cherry Valley, on the Auburn Road. William Earle had a grist-mill on "Hasley Brook" before 1730.

There was a carpenter here in 1717, and a few years later two other carpenters, a mason, a wheelwright and a tailor.

There was plenty of land, and land which had been secured at low rates. But, although the first distribution was on equitable terms, the equality of ownership did not long continue, and it came to pass, in the buying and selling of "rights," that some of the farms contained from twelve to fifteen hundred acres.

Even that early period of labor and struggle was not exempt from class distinctions and jealousies. Some of the families that came early to Leicester were in those days regarded as rich. Some were well-educated and refined. Coming thus from Boston, which had been settled a hundred years, their style of dress and their manners were doubtless somewhat in contrast with those of some of their neighbors. Soon after the family to which reference has already been made came to town, the congregation, one Sunday, was startled by the entrance of a man dressed in small-clothes, a green calamanco coat and gold-laced hat, and with a cavalry sword hanging at his side, which thumped against the floor as he strode to his seat. When asked, at the close of the service, the occasion of this remarkable display, he said, "It is to let the Henshaws know that there is a God in Israel."

In 1722, when there were hardly fifty families on the scattered farms in the wilderness, the Indians of Maine and Canada resumed hostilities. This war is called "Lovell's War," from its most tragic incident, "Lovell's fight," in which Colonel Lovell routed the savages, but lost his own life on the shore of the beautiful lake in Fryeburg, Maine, which bears his name.

There were no general engagements in this region, but the frontier towns were harassed and kept in fear four years by roving bands of Indians, who lurked in the woods waiting to shoot down or capture their unsuspecting victims. The tidings that Worcester was threatened, and that three men had been shot and scalped in Rutland, naturally alarmed the people of Leicester. Although there are no traditions of similar attacks here, the marks of bullets in the fortified King house remained for a century afterward. In a letter to Lieutenant-Governor Dummer, Thomas Newhall gives information that "a man reaping here, informs us an Indian had got within seven rods of him, and, looking up, he had a certain discovery of him; and stepping a few rods for his gun, he saw him no more, but hastened home."

Draper, also, in his "History of Spencer," informs us that "the earlier settlers of the town were frequently alarmed and disturbed by small parties or individual Indians prowling about the neighborhood, or through the town." Indians were also said to have been seen

in the woods southwest of Greenville; but they were deterred from making an attack by the fact of fortified houses in that neighborhood.

In 1722 two Worcester men were sent to Leicester as scouts. In the correspondence of those years there are affecting references to the sad, anxious and defenceless condition of the people. In an appeal for help from Worcester, in 1724, to Colonel John Chandler, of Woodstock, who had command of the defensive forces in this vicinity, there is this significant reference to Leicester: "As to Leicester, the people there more need help from us than are able to render us any." Colonel Chandler himself, in a letter to Lieutenant-Governor Dummer, seconding the request for protection, expresses his regret, in view of the disappointment of "the poor people of Worcester, Leicester," etc., in not receiving it, and pleads for "consideration of the distressed circumstances of the poor people of these towns." Soon after, twenty-nine soldiers were posted in Leicester.

The next April the Lieutenant-Governor gave Colonel Chandler notice of the approach of several parties of Indians from Canada, and ordered him to visit and warn the towns. The whole region was soon thrown into consternation by tidings that two companies of Indians were between them and "the Warchusetts," and the citizens of Leicester applied to the Lieutenant-Governor for speedy assistance of soldiers to defend them. "Our number of inhabitants," they write, "is very small, and several were much discouraged; it was so late last summer before we had soldiers that we were exceedingly behind with our business." That year the town was, by the General Court, released from the payment of the "Province tax" of seven pounds, on account, as the people in their petition say, "of being a frontier," and "being very much exposed and reduced to very low circumstances by the late Indian war."

The house of the minister was, at the first, surrounded by a "garrison" or stockade, and in 1726 this defense was, by vote of the town, repaired and strengthened. There was also a garrison on the place of Judge Menzes, the outlines of which, near the Henshaw place, remained till the middle of the present century. A house at Manuville was also fortified. The house of John King, between Leicester and Greenville, was made a fort. This house still stands, a solitary relic of those early times.

After its early trials and struggles, the town seems to have prospered generally as a farming community. Some of the early inhabitants were men of means, as well as of culture and standing, and other valuable families came into town. The farms greatly increased in value, and, with the building of better houses, the removal of the forests and the laying out and improvement of roads, the prosperity and comfort of the people were increased. Still, the growth of the place was slow, and there were repeated periods of great trial and depression. After forty years, there were less than one hundred families in the Eastern Precinct. At the time of the Declaration of Independence the population was ten hundred and seventy-eight. There was no increase during the war. At the opening of the present century the number was eleven hundred and three.

During a considerable portion of the last century the town, like other communities, suffered from the depreciation of the currency, and losses from State loans and private banking enterprises. These difficulties confronted the settlers almost at the first, and were increased by the heavy demands made necessary by successive wars; in the time of the Revolution paper-money depreciated so rapidly that it became necessary to rate its value every few weeks. It finally became worthless.

Even in these circumstances money was counterfeited, and in 1747 we find the town voting Mr. William Green the sum of "2 pounds towards the counterfeit bill he took as town treasurer."

The danger of small-pox at times called for town action. The question of establishing an inoculating hospital was evidently a subject of controversy. It was finally disposed of in 1777 (after being repeatedly deferred) by a vote "that the physician provide a hospital at his own cost, subject to the selectmen." September 17, 1792, the town "voted to have small-pox in town by inoculation."

At the March meeting in 1771 the town voted "that a list presented by the selectmen of the names of those persons who have come into town, and the place where they came from since June 1, 1767, be put on the town records, in order that posterity may know when and from whence they came, and that the selectmen be directed to present such a list at the town-meeting in March for the future." Such a list was presented every year; notices were recorded of persons who came to town until the year 1786; and as late as 1793 certificates were recorded of persons taken into houses and families.

On the afternoon of July 10, 1759, the town was visited by a remarkable cyclone. Two numbers of the *Boston Post* of that time are largely devoted to the details. It struck the tavern-house of Mr. Samuel Lynde, the last on the road to Spencer, passing from southwest to northeast. The house was lifted a considerable distance from its foundations, "and in the space of two minutes tore all to pieces." Several persons in the house were severely injured. "A little girl, being also at the Door, was carried by the Force of the Wind upwards of 40 rods, and had an arm broke." Four women were afterwards found in the cellar, "but could give no account how they got there." Articles from the house were found in Holden, ten miles distant, and "a watch was taken up above a mile from where the house stood." The barn and farm buildings were "torn to pieces," and a horse was killed. Trees were torn up by the roots, and fences broken down. A negro "standing at the

door of that House was carried near 10 Rods Distance in the Air," and was so much injured that he died; and "a Pile of Boards ('tis said 7,000 Feet), being near the house, was shivered to Splinters, and carried to a great Distance, so that there was not Pieees large enough to make a Coffin to bury the Negro in."

It is said that purchasers who drew lots on the Connecticut Road, near what is now the line between Leicester and Spencer, expected, as was natural, that this would be the centre of the town, with all the advantages of such a position. But favorable as that locality might have been as the site of a village, the basis of separation between the two parts was laid at the beginning, when the eastern half was seleeted for prior occupation. After disposing of the eastern portion, the proprietors divided the western half among themselves, and the farms began slowly to be taken up. Before 1725 there were only three families in this part of the town. The two seetions were so far apart, and the circumstances of their early settlement were so unlike that their interests were never identical. There were differenees with referenee to laying out roads and the adjustment of appropriations; and the western portion was not satisfied to be without a minister, and desired to have the money raised by them for the ministry used for a minister in their part of the town. They also wished to be exempted from taxation for the schools, the advantage of which they did not enjoy. In 1741 the inhabitants petitioned to be "set off" as a town. The General Court readily passed an act of incorporation, but it was vetoed by Governor Shirley.

In 1744, July 18th, they were incorporated as a parish, and called "The Westerly Parish of Leicester." Five years later both precincts petitioned the General Court "to erect the west part of Leicester into a distinct and separate town." A bill of ineorporation was passed, but it was vetoed by Lieutenant-Governor Phipps, on the ground that it would increase the number of representatives to the General Court. The House protested against the arbitrary action of the royal executive, but without effeet. In April, 1753, the precinct was made a district, with all the prerogatives of a town except that of sending a representative to the General Assembly. The bill was signed by Lieutenant-Governor Spencer Phipps, April 12, 1753, and his honor condescended to have the town called after his own first name. In 1775, upon the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the town assumed its right to send a representative to the Assembly, and in 1780 the right was made constitutional.

Upon the incorporation of Paxton, February, 1765, a strip of land two miles in width was set off to that town; and when Ward (now Auburn) was incorporated, April 10, 1778, the town parted with a small tract of land.

CHAPTER II.

LEICESTER—(*Continued.*)

FRENCH AND REVOLUTIONARY WARS.

Leicester in the French Wars—Louisbourg—Massacre of Fort William Henry—Quebec—Colonel William Henshaw—Revolutionary War—Leading Patriots—Town Meetings—"Instructions"—Committee of Correspondence—"Minute-men" proposed—Tea—Courts—Provincial Congress—Ammunition Stored—19th of April—Colonel William Henshaw's Orderly Books—Bunker Hill—Peter Salem—Provincial Congress—Suspected Persons—War Expenses—Soldiers—Leicester Men in the Service.

French War.—The history of the connection of Leieester with the wars of the last century shows how true it is that the life of a little settlement in the interior is identified in all its interests with the great movements of society and of nations. The people of Leieester had a somewhat prominent part in shaping, as well as in determining, some of the great issues which distinguished the last century. The convulsions of the old world, and the conflicts between the old world and the new, were felt on the hills of Leicester. While the people of the town were occupied with their arduous labors, and were struggling with the difficulties of a new country and of frontier life, they also accepted their full share of the serviee, and the burden of these exhausting wars in which the energies of the province were so largely engaged during the middle portion of the century.

The colonies loyally and heartily supported the mother country in the French wars from 1744 to 1763, and aceepted with enthusiasm the hardships and sufferings of the several campaigns. They saw the perils to which their own settlements were exposed by the alliance of the French with the Indians, and comprehended, to some extent, the magnitude and importance of the great struggle between England and France for supremaey in America. "Our people," wrote Benjamin Henshaw, of Connecticut, "are *prodigiously spirited* to help in the work."

In the several expeditions and engagements of the war of 1744 many Leicester men took part. The earlier enlistment rolls are not to be found, and therefore the names of most of these men are unknown.

In 1745 the Legislature of Massachusetts planned an expedition for the reduction of the fortress at Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Breton. There are no means of knowing to what extent Leicester responded to this call. Captain John Brown commanded a company in the expedition, and was present at the surrender of the place. James Smith died in the expedition. Other Leicester men shared in the terrible hardships of the six weeks' investment of the fortress. The next year a French fleet was sent to recover the place, and to ravage the coast of New England. The approach of this fleet caused great alarm, and an attack on Boston was expected. In September Captain Nathaniel Green, "in his Majesty's serviee in Leieester," received and executed an order

from Colonel John Chandler for an immediate draft of twenty-five men, with ammunition and provision for fourteen days, to march for the defence of Boston. The fleet, however, was scattered by a storm, a pestilential fever broke out among the men, the whole expedition was given up, and the two admirals, in their chagrin, took their own lives. In the winter of 1747 and 1748 men were sent to Colraine, and to Fort Massachusetts, in Williamstown, for the protection of that region against Indian attacks; and others enlisted in the "Canada expedition."

In the French and Indian War, which broke out in 1754, still larger demands were made upon the town for soldiers. Leicester was represented by its soldiers, in the earlier campaigns of this war, under General Winslow, and at Crown Point. In 1756 fifteen men enlisted in the expedition against Crown Point. They were in the company of Captain John Stebbins, the early settler by that name, but then a resident of Spencer. In that year twenty men from Leicester joined the army, only two of whom were conscripts.

Thomas Newhall had command of a company of cavalry. Nathan Parsons, a native of Leicester, and son of the first minister, was present at the surrender and the "Massacre of Fort William Henry," as was also Knight Sprague, then a boy of 16 years. Governor Washburn, in his history, gives in detail Mr. Sprague's reminiscences of that terrible scene in which men and women were the victims of the wild and drunken fury of the savages. "Sprague escaped after being partially stripped, and made his way to Fort Edward. On the way he passed his captain, who had been entirely stripped and many women were in no better condition. The yells of the savages, the groans of the wounded and dying, the shrieks of the affrighted women and frantic soldiers, and the dead who lay scattered around them, made it a scene of unsurpassed horror. Fifteen of his own company of fifty were killed soon after leaving the fort."

In the final struggle of that war, in which Quebec was taken by General Wolfe, and Canada was wrested from the French, a large number of Leicester men participated. The names of twenty-three are given in Washburn's History. Dr. Thomas Steele, of Leicester, was surgeon's mate in the same campaign and there were probably other Leicester men.

It was at this time that Colonel William Henshaw began his distinguished military career. He received a commission as second lieutenant March 31, 1759, in Colonel Timothy Ruggles' regiment, in the company of Captain Jeduthan Baldwin, and served from May 10th to November 28th, in two campaigns.

He kept a diary of the daily experiences of these months, which is now in the possession of his granddaughter, Miss Harriet E. Henshaw, of Leicester. Marching orders were received on the 9th of May. "The Carriages to be loaded by Day Break to Morrow Morning, and all the Troops that have passed Muster to gett themselves ready to march to Morrow Morning by Sunrise." The troops were conveyed on horseback and in carriages. It was a journey of fourteen days through the forest and over "the mountains." They passed through the "Land of Contention," the disputed territory between the States, and, at length reached Albany, where they "drawed Tents and Provisions, and encamped on the Hill 100 rods from Albany City." They were stationed most of the time at Fort Edward and Crown Point.

"In the month of June," Lieutenant Henshaw writes, "I was taken from the Provincials and did duty in one of the British regiments under General Amherst, which afforded me opportunity of becoming acquainted with discipline." The severity and inhuman cruelty of the British "discipline" are evinced by such entries as the following: "Sentenced 200 lashes each;" "Two R. I. men whipped, One 1000 lashes, the other 500 lashes." While he was at Fort Edward, news was received of the taking of Ticonderoga, upon which the "other prisoners were pardoned." Here, also, the news of the taking of Quebec was received.

The Revolutionary War.—In the preliminary stages of the Revolutionary struggle the town of Leicester acted a prominent and distinguished part. There were men here of unusual ability. Some of them were well educated, and many were trained for military service in the French wars. Several of the leading families were intimately associated with the Revolutionary leaders in Boston. Hon. Joseph Allen was a nephew of Samuel Adams. Adams, Warren, Otis and Hancock often met at the house of Joshua Henshaw, in Boston, before his removal to Leicester, to discuss and mature their plans. Other leading citizens were in the confidence of the Revolutionary leaders.

There was then no mail service, but early and confidential information was received by couriers on horseback, respecting the movements of the English and the plans of the patriots.

The records of the town show what a power the town-meeting was, in which, as the revenue commissioners of Boston complained, "the lowest mechanics discussed the most important points of government with the utmost freedom," and with what effect it unified and voiced the spirit of the people.

During all the years of British aggression, of the war, and the period which followed, in which the state and the federation were taking form, they came together in these meetings, in "the first meeting-house," and deliberated upon the great questions of principle and policy involved in the Declaration of Independence and the organization of government on the basis of personal liberty. From these town-meetings there issued manifestoes really statesmanlike in their grasp and expression.

The whole original township acted together until 1775. The people were truly loyal to the King until they saw that war was inevitable. Some of them, the Dennys, the Stebbingses, the Southgates and others, came directly from England to Leicester. The town had heartily responded in former wars to every call of the mother country. They approved the "Protestant succession" and were ready to hazard "their" lives in defence of "the person, crown and dignity" of the King; but they were equally ready to maintain their own rights and to resist every encroachment upon their own liberties at whatever cost.

Nearly ten years before the war began, the town, with the districts of Spencer and Paxton, adopted the practice of giving formal instructions to their Representatives to the General Assembly, and, from time to time, of passing resolutions representing their opinions upon public affairs.

In October, 1765, having elected Capt. John Brown Representative, they proceeded to give him formal instructions in "this critical juncture." The Stamp Act had been passed and was soon to be enforced, and Courts of Admiralty had been ordered for the trial of offenders without jury. The excitement occasioned by these acts had been so great that a mob had, in August, burnt the house of Lieut.-Gov. Hutchinson. With these facts fresh in mind, the town and districts gave extended and specific instructions to their Representative, in whose "ability and integrity" they confided. They declared their "inexpressible grief and concern" in view of the "repeated taxes," and especially the "Stamp Act," which they "had no voice in Parliament in making;" and expressed their alarm at the "unparalleled stretch given to admiralty jurisdiction," "by which every man is liable to be carried a thousand miles before a Court of Admiralty," "tried without jury," "amerced," "taxed with costs," and, if unable to pay, "to die in prison in an unknown land, without friends to bury him." They also expressed their disapproval of all "tumultuous ravages," and especially that "wherein our Lieut.-Gov. suffered," and their surprise that he should "charge the outrage to the province, thus representing them as an ungrateful and disloyal people."

In the summer of 1768 the colonies were aroused by new acts of oppression. The General Assembly of Massachusetts was dissolved by the Governor, and not allowed to meet again while it refused to withdraw an appeal to the other colonies. A sloop-of-war was anchored in Boston harbor, and troops were ordered to Boston to subdue the rebellious spirit of the people. In consequence of these proceedings the citizens of Boston called a conference of towns. Ninety-six towns responded. The call was issued September 14th, and five days afterward we find the citizens of Leicester in "the first meeting-house," called together hastily, and without due notice, to act upon the proposition. The proceedings of this meeting were legalized at the next March meeting, and thus recorded. Capt. John Brown was chosen delegate to the conference, "without any authority," and, in resolutions which breathe the spirit of fervent loyalty to the King and devotion to the English Constitution and the Magna Charta, and which yet declare the "dissolution of the 'General Court' a real grievance," instructed "to give his advice and use his influence that all rash measures be prevented, and every mild one adopted that may be consistent with Englishmen claiming their rights." The hour of rebellion had not yet come, but it was rapidly approaching.

In January, 1770, a meeting was called to "see if the town will come to any note or vote about the purchasing of goods of those that import from Great Britan, contrary to the agreement of the principal merchants in Boston and most others on the continent." A vote of thanks was passed to those merchants who were thus "sacrificing their own interest for the good of their country." The call for this meeting was prepared by William Henshaw, and was signed by twenty-eight persons. They asked the town to vote that those who should offend by purchasing the prescribed goods "shall be deemed enemies to America, and as such shall be recorded in the town's book of records," and the town appears to have adopted the proposal.

In May following, a military company of forty-six men was formed for drill. The next year the town bought one hundred pounds of powder, also bullets and flints.

In 1772 Committees of Correspondence were organized under the leadership of Samuel Adams. They proved to be one of the most effective agencies in advancing the Revolutionary cause. Two years later, Daniel Leonard, the Tory writer, pronounced them "the foulest, subtlest and most venemous serpent ever hatched from the egg of sedition. It is the source of the rebellion. I saw the small seed when it was planted; it was a grain of mustard. I have watched the plant till it has become a great tree." They were at first voluntary bodies, but were afterward recognized by the Legislature. The date and manner of the appointment of the committee in Leicester are not known. It was in existence and in correspondence with the Boston committee in January of 1773, within less than four months after the introduction of the system. Later the committee was chosen annually by the town.

Of the first committee William Henshaw was the chairman and Thomas Denny, Joseph Henshaw, Rev. Benjamin Conklin, Hezekiah Ward and Thomas Newhall were members, together with William Green, Samuel Green and Joseph Sargent, who were added the same year.

A convention of the Committees of Safety in the county assembled in Worcester in August, 1774. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Conklin, of Leicester, and William Henshaw was made clerk.

Joseph Henshaw and Thomas Denny were also prominent members. The Leicester and Worcester committees were appointed a committee for the county, to conduct correspondence, and call a county congressional convention. The convention was continued by adjournment till May 31, 1775.

It was in accordance with the recommendation of Col. William Henshaw in the convention, and upon his motion, that the famed companies of "Minute-Men" were organized, who in the emergency proved, as he in his motion expressed it, "ready to act at a minute's warning." He also presented the resolution in response to which six thousand men came to Worcester, armed and officered, and prevented the assembling of the Inferior Court. At this time Judge Steele, of Leicester, was compelled, with other justices, to sign an assurance that the court would stay proceedings. He was also forced to make a written apology for a letter of congratulation which he, with other justices, had sent to Gov. Gage upon his assumption of command at Boston.

Early in the year 1773 the town and districts again met to instruct their representative, Mr. Thomas Denny, and to pass resolutions. The meeting was "full," and continued till a late hour. "The votes were unanimous." These resolutions and instructions contain a brief but comprehensive statement of the wrongs, and a declaration of the rights of the province. They were still loyal to the crown, but they resolve, "We have a right to all the liberties and privileges of subjects born within the realm of England; and we esteem and prize them so highly, that we think it our duty to risk our lives and fortunes in defence thereof." Mr. Denny was re-elected in May, and again instructed.

The patriots of Boston were greatly encouraged by the response of the towns of the interior. Two weeks after the instructions had been given to Mr. Denny, the Boston Committee of Correspondence wrote to the committee in Leicester, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the proceedings, and added, "We think it must supprize our Oppressors to read your very ingenious and sensible Resolves, and your Instructions to your worthy Representative."

To this letter the committee replied at length, through Colonel Henshaw: "We have paid, and are still willing to pay due obedience to laws,—made by our own consent,—and lawful authority; but he who tamely submits to 'the tyrannical Edicts of the British Parliament and Ministry,' is unworthy even of the name of 'an American.'"

In November, 1773, four days before the arrival in Boston of the vessels loaded with tea, the Boston committee, in a long letter on "that worst of plagues, the detested tea," wrote to know the sense the "towns have of the present gloomy situation of our public affairs." To this the Leicester committee replied in no doubtful terms, expressing obligation to the committee in Boston for their "vigilance," and for their "late proceedings and manly resolutions in regard to the detestable tea sent here by the West India Company," "and as you have requested our advice, we shall, as a committee, freely give it: and that is to go on as you have begun, and on no account suffer it to be landed, or pay one farthing of duty." This was two days before the tea was thrown overboard. Joshua Henshaw is understood to have been one of the "tea party."

On December 27 the town and districts responded. They were loyal still to the crown, and ready to hazard their lives in its defence, but they asserted their provincial rights of property and person, denounced the Stamp Act as "a usurpation of authority to which no power on earth is entitled, and contrary to the fundamental principles of our happy Constitution;" and promised to oppose, "at the hazard of their lives and fortunes," any impositions unconstitutionally laid upon imported articles.

They also resolved "That we will not use any tea in our families or suffer any to be consumed therein while loaded with a tribute contrary to our consent, and that whoever shall sell any of that destructive herb shall be deemed by us inimical to the rights of his country as endeavoring to counteract the designs of those who are zealous for its true interests." They enforced these proceedings by choosing a committee of fourteen to "inspect any teas sold or used in the towns and districts and report the names of offenders at the annual meeting."

The objection of the people to "that destructive herb" was not to the tea nor to the tax, but to its imposition by a government in which they had no representation, and in 1781 we find the town voting to license persons "to sell Bohea tea and other Indian teas, according to the law of 1781," imposing "excise duties."

One of the acts of the crown which awakened special alarm, and against which the people indignantly protested, was that which provided that the judges of the Superior Court should be paid out of the royal treasury. Chief Justice Oliver was the only judge who accepted this provision, and the House of Representatives took prompt measures for his impeachment. Upon the meeting of the court in Worcester in April, 1774, the grand jurors, instead of coming forward to be sworn, presented a written protest, refusing to serve if Justice Oliver was to sit with the court. This protest was drawn up by Col. Wm. Henshaw. "By his own confession," it declares, "he stands convicted, in the minds of the people, of a crime more heinous, in all probability, than any that might come before him." The chief justice, however, was not present, and the business of the court proceeded without interruption. In a subsequent letter to the court, a draft of which, as well as the original protest, is in the possession of his granddaughter, Col. Henshaw, after explanations and the expression of satisfaction at the course of the

judges, makes complaint of what he styles "a great hardship," and at that early day recommends the course which now universally prevails in the courts. The complaint was of "having a foreman imposed upon jurys by the Court, which we think ought to be chosen by the Jurors." The reason given is that "the Jurors who live in the vicinity are better acquainted with the abilities of their neighbors than the judges can be." "We hope," he writes, "that this error in appointing a Foreman will be soon rectified, & the power vested in the Jurys to choose their own foreman by a fair Vote, which we think would be of vast utility to the Public and for the facilitating business & saving expense to the County."

The year 1774 was one of agitation and preparation. Repeated acts of oppression were effectually exhausting the loyalty of the people to the mother country, and the spirit of resistance was growing more determined. Eighteen town-meetings were held this year, and repeated instructions and resolutions were voted, some of which rank with the ablest and most eloquent manifestoes of that period. They cover the whole range of questions involved in the struggle, and counsel the most determined resistance. In May they protested against the Port Bill. In July resolutions, prepared by a committee, were adopted, which clearly, comprehensively and eloquently discuss the issues of the hour, and declare the duty of citizens loyal, at the same time, to the Province and to the rightful authority of the Crown. It is a dignified and determined declaration of rights, by the town of Leicester and the districts of Spencer and Paxton assembled, "not tumultuously, riotously or seditiously, but soberly and seriously, as men, as citizens and as Christians, to take into our consideration the present distressed state of our affairs." They pledged themselves not to purchase goods imported from England, and to have no dealings with those who import such goods while the duty on tea is continued, unless "other measures of redress be recommended by General Congress." They also urge the people to "associate together, and discourse and inform themselves of their rights and privileges as men, as members of society and the English Constitution."

In September Thomas Denny was chosen Representative to the Great and General Court, which, driven from Boston, met the next month in Salem, and instructed to be sworn only by an officer appointed under the charter, and to refuse to be sworn by the Lieutenant-Governor. The Legislature was prorogued by the Governor, and immediately resolved itself into a Provincial Convention or Congress.

Mr. Denny was delegated to represent the town in this "convention" at its meeting the next month in Concord,—"An assembly," as they suggest in their instructions, "in which at this dark and difficult day, perhaps the most important business will come before you that was ever transacted since the settlement of North America." "Everything now conspires to prompt the full exertion of true policy, valor and intrepidity." The instructions are under ten "particulars." They urge, since "charters have become bubbles," resistance to all compromise, and "compliance with the advice of the Continental Congress." They urge an "endeavor to have the militia of the Province put on the most respectable footing, and that every town be supplied with one or more field pieces, properly mounted and furnished with ammunition. A militia composed of the yeomanry and proprietors of the country is its surest defence: therefore we esteem it a matter of the last necessity that they be properly disciplined and taught the arts of war with all expedition, as we know not how soon we may be called to action."

They demand restitution for the removal of arms and ammunition from Boston and Cambridge, and for loss and damage resulting from the blockade of Boston. They urge the encouragement of arts and manufactures, by granting premiums and preventing importation, recommend intercolonial correspondence and the apprehension and trial of persons "inimical to their country."

Mr. Denny died soon after the assembling of the Congress, and Col. Joseph Henshaw was chosen his successor. He was briefly instructed to promote with all his influence "any plan for the common good, generally adopted by the Congress," and urge upon it "an immediate assumption of government." "Particular matters will no doubt turn up in the course of the session, which, as we, your constituants, are not now apprized of, so cannot particularly instruct." This was January 9, 1775.

The anticipated "matters" were not far in the future. When they did "turn up" they found the people in this hot-bed of treason ready to convert their resolutions into actions. The standing company of the town was under the command of Capt. Thomas Newhall and Lieutenants Benjamin Richardson and Ebenezer Upham. An "independent company of volunteers," formed in 1770, had been reorganized, with Seth Washburn as captain and William Watson and Nathaniel Harrod as lieutenants.

The town had also made some provision for ammunition. The minute-men had met weekly for drill, under an officer of the regular army, whom they had hired.

In February the Committee of Safety and Supplies of the Provincial Congress decided to remove the powder stored at Concord to Leicester; also eight field-pieces, shot, cartridges and two brass mortars, with bombs. The letter of Joseph Henshaw to his brother, whom he styles "Brother Billy," gives minute directions with reference to the storing of the six or seven hogsheads of powder in the barns of Colonel Henshaw, Major Denny, Captain Newhall and Captain Green. It was afterward decided to distribute these stores in

nine towns, of which Leicester was one. In all the correspondence of these years the greatest secrecy was observed. The letters were often without signature, and often signed by fictitious names.

In March there were rumors of the movement of the British forces, and Colonel Henshaw and Joseph Allen walked to Worcester over the snow-drifts on "rackets" to ascertain their truth. It is said that at one time Mr. Allen had his knapsack and his trunk, with his wedding suit, packed, not knowing whether he should first be called to battle or to his marriage.

The scenes of the 19th of April, and indeed of the period which immediately followed, are graphically given by Governor Washburn in his history. Many of them were told him by the actors themselves, who have long been dead.

Early in the afternoon of the 19th of April an unknown horseman rode rapidly through the village, stopped long enough before the blacksmith's shop to say, "The war has begun; the regulars are marching to Concord," and then hurried on to alarm the towns beyond. "I saw," wrote Col. Wm. Henshaw, "the express that came from the town of Lexington, informing that the enemy had killed several men in that town." The blacksmith, who was Captain Seth Washburn, dropped a ploughshare on which he was working, rushed into the road and discharged his musket. The members of the companies were called together from all parts of the town. At four o'clock every minute-man was on the common. They were uniformed, but they came with their Queen's arms, and with their powder-horns and shot-pouches. Members of their families and other friends were assembled to render assistance and to bid them God speed."

Dr. Honeywood, an Englishman—the physican of the place—had never till that hour had confidence in the ability of the province to resist the power of Great Britain, but when he saw that little company of resolute, determined men, who had come at a moment's warning, some of them leaving their plows in the furrows, he said: "Such men as these will fight, and what is more they won't be beat."

The pastor of the church, Rev. Benjamin Conklin, himself a "high liberty man," was present, and before the company started, as the men leaned upon their muskets and all heads were uncovered, committed them, in prayer, to the guidance and protection of the God of battles. "Pray for me and I will fight for you," said the captain to his venerable mother, and then gave the order, "Forward!"

Within three hours after meeting on the Common, the company marched. They halted in front of the house of Nathan Sargent, in Cherry Valley, and Mr. Sargent, to supply the need of the company, melted down the leaden weights of the family clock, and distributed the bullets to the company.

There were forty-three men in the company. Captain Thomas [illegible]. Newhall, with the standing company of the town, consisting of thirty-four men, marched a little later. Companies from Spencer and other western towns followed. The march of the companies was rapid till they reached Marlborough, where they heard of the retreat of the British. Lights were burning in every window on the way through the night. Regimental officers in town were equally prompt in joining their commands.

A part of the company returned after a few weeks' service. Others enlisted under Captain Washburn for eight months. There were fifty-nine men in this company, most of them from Leicester. The embargo of Boston and its occupation by the regulars rendered it necessary to call upon the towns to contribute for the support of its poor. Thirty-six were apportioned to Leicester. In May Leicester was also required to furnish one barrel of powder and twelve muskets for the use of the province.

Colonel William Henshaw, who reached Cambridge on the forenoon of the 20th, was a member of the council of war, and, with Colonel Gridley and Richard Devans, reconnoitred the heights of Cambridge and Charlestown. The report of the committee is signed by Colonel Henshaw, as chairman. It recommended the fortification of Bunker Hill and the construction of redoubts between Charlestown and Cambridge. Colonel Prescott was detailed to execute this plan, but decided to fortify Breed's Hill, instead of Bunker Hill. On the 27th of June Colonel Henshaw was commissioned adjutant-general of the Provincial army, under General [illegible]. Ward. Upon the arrival of Washington, he was, on the 3d of July, superseded by General Gates, adjutant of the American army. He was, however, persuaded to remain as assistant of General Gates. The Orderly Books, in four volumes, covering the period from April, 1775, to October, 1776, are in the possession of his granddaughter, Miss Harriet E. Henshaw, of Leicester, and are an invaluable treasure. The first volume was published by the Massachusetts Historical Society, as its centennial volume. It contains the roster of the regiments, the "Parole" and "Countersign" for each day, the "Officer of the day" and "Field-officer" and the general orders from April 20, 1775, to September 26th of the same year.

On the day of the battle of Bunker Hill, Captain Washburn's company, which formed a part of the regiment of General Artemas Ward, in command of Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Ward, marched from Cambridge, by way of Lechmere Point, and took position at the rail-fence, "gallantly covering the retreat." It was to them a thrilling hour. They saw the hurried movement of the troops, they heard the beat of drums, the roar of British artillery and "the cracking of musketry over in Charlestown." Just before marching, Captain Washburn addressed his company in words of counsel and encouragement and committed them to God in a fervent prayer. "Some of them often spoke," says Washburn in his history, "in their old age, of the unfaltering confidence with

which, after this, they went through the experiences of the day." On their way to Charlestown Neck, they were met by a man on horseback, supposed to be Dr. Benjamin Church, afterward proved to be a traitor, who inquired of Lieutenant-Colonel Ward to what point he was marching. He answered, "To the hill." "Have you not had counter-orders?" "I have not." "You will have soon," he said, and commanded the regiment to halt. Most of the regiment therefore remained behind; but Captain Washburn stepped forward and said, "Those are Tory orders; I sha'n't obey them. Who will follow me?" The entire company followed the captain, and two other companies with them left the regiment and moved on toward the scene of action, exposed to the shot of the British fleet; the captain gave any who might be afraid the privilege of going back. Not a man of that brave company left the ranks. "Then we'll all go together," said the captain; and the whole company started on "double quick" and ascended the hill. Charlestown was on fire and the enemy were advancing on the redoubt. A ball lodged in the cartouch-box of the captain. The company for a time fought at the rail-fence, but were soon obliged to retreat. Several of the company were wounded and borne from the field under fire. One of the two strands of Daniel Hubbard's cue was cut off close to his head by a ball. Abner Livermore's canteen was shot away and rolled toward the enemy. His brother Isaac ran and secured it, saying, "I'll be darned if the regulars shall have that rum." Samuel Sargent lost the contents of his canteen, but saved the ball that pierced it. Four balls passed through the captain's coat and one through his wig. Israel Green, a native of Leicester, had three sons in the battle, one of whom was killed, the second died of wounds received, and a third was killed in the battle of Monmouth.

Among the soldiers in this battle was Peter Salem, a negro, and formerly a slave. He was a native of Framingham, and in Colonel Nixon's regiment. It was the shot from his musket which killed Major Pitcairn, just as he mounted the redoubt and shouted, "The day is ours." After the war he came to Leicester, where he remained until, in his old age and poverty, he was taken to the poor-house in Framingham, where he died.

In July of this year the inhabitants of Leicester, having chosen Hezekiah Ward Representative to the Provincial Congress, instructed him with reference to his duties. "To this important now," they say, "posterity will look back with joy and admiration, secure in the enjoyment of their inestimable liberties, or with keenest sensations of grief, while they drag the galling chain of servitude." He was directed to comply with the orders of the Continental Congress, to oppose the accession to power of those who had proved inimical to their country, or had failed to give it their support, "waiting the tide of events;" to watch "with jealous yet candid eye the disposition and motions of the American army, always remembering the importance of preserving the superiority of the civil power over the military;" to urge the execution of the laws against immorality and vice; and to act for the interest of the cause in relation to other specific matters.

In May, 1776, instructions were given to Seth Washburn, as Representative to the General Court, urging the utmost deliberation and caution in the measures of the court for protection and organization. At the same meeting it was "Voted by the inhabitants then present, unanimously, That in case the Honorable the Continental Congress should declare these Colonies independent of Great Britain, they would support said Congress in effectuating such a measure at the risk of their lives and fortunes."

With this declaration this remarkable series of instructions and resolutions ends. They cover a period of nearly eleven years previous to the Declaration of Independence. There is hardly a question involved in the controversy with the mother country, or the policy of the colonies, which they do not discuss. In clearness and breadth of view, in forethought and wisdom, in felicity and eloquence of expression, and in fervent, self-sacrificing, courageous, invincible patriotism, they are hardly surpassed, even in the historic productions of that period. Bancroft, in his history, quotes from them, as illustrative of the spirit of the time.

But the time for manifestoes had now passed; the time for action had come. Henceforth the work of the town, as its records also show, was enlisting soldiers, raising bounties, hiring soldiers, providing for the purchase of ammunition and entrenching tools, and the pay for carting provisions, buying beef and clothing for the army, aiding companies that had done more than their share of service, authorizing the selectmen "to supply the necessities of life to soldiers," abating the poll-taxes of soldiers, caring for soldiers' wives, providing for families of officers and soldiers and fixing the prices of commodities. There was no authorized government and all difficulties were settled by arbitration.

The people were also careful to guard themselves against treachery. Too many of the leaders of the Revolutionary movements were here to render the toleration of spies safe, and the people were too much in earnest to bear patiently the opposition of men "inimical" to the cause. In 1774 the selectmen, through Colonel Henshaw, had informed at least one suspected man that his "residedence" would be "peculiarly disgustful to the Inhabitants." "And as well-wishers of the peace and order of the town, we think it advisable that you move from hence as soon as may be; as the people, roused with the insults they have already sustained, will, in all probability, pay you a visit less respectful than the Intimation you now receive." Three years later Colonel Henshaw was instructed, by vote of the town, to "procure what

evidenee he may be able of the inimieal Disposition of any inhabitent of this town toward the United States of Americea, which inhabitent may be so voted to be, in the opinion of the town." One sueh man was at that time voted, in the opinion of the town, "inimically disposed." In July of the next year it was "Voted that the selectmen be directed to prefer a petition to General Court, that William Manning and family may be removed from this town."

When the Declaration of Independence had been adopted it was, in aecordance with the direction of the Counеil, copied on the town records.

These minutes are full of interest and instruetion. They show the true eharaeter of the people and the power of their deliberation and united aetion. Lord Germaine did not speak without provoeation when he said, "This is what eomes of their wretehed old town-meetings."

Aecording to a report made to the town in 1784, the town paid in bounties, from 1775 to that time, £9268 6s. (probably equivalent to about $11,000 in eoin) to 244 soldiers. It is estimated that the town raised for the expenses of the war over $18,000, in addition to State taxes. There were twenty-eight requisitions upon the town for soldiers. These were filled by more than 254 men. Beside these were the men who marehed on the 19th of April and at least thirty who enlisted for three years in 1777 and 1778. Some of these soldiers were veterans of the French wars; others were boys of sixteen years.

It is to be remembered that the population of the town in 1776 was only 1078, and that it deereased during the war. There were in Leieester in 1777 only 212 men over sixteen years of age, and the names on the muster-roll were less than half the number of enlistments and re-enlistments in the quotas of the town. The valuation of the town seven years after the elose of the war was only $140,000.

In 1781 the town was divided into ten elasses, which were each to furnish their proportion of soldiers upon requisition of the government. So exhaustive was the demand that it was necessary to hire substitutes from other places to meet it. The town was repeatedly nnder the necessity of electing new seleetmen and assessors, on account of the absenee of the regular incumbents in the army. Women worked in the fields, beeause all the male members of their families were in the war, and farmers sold their cattle to raise money for the payment of taxes.

The number of eommissioned offieers from Leieester was large, in proportion to the size of the town. Col. William Henshaw, to whom we have already referred, was in eommand of a regiment in the battle of Long Island. He was with a pieket-guard which was cut off from the main body by a superior foree of Hessians, and cut its way through with great gallantry and little loss of life.

Col. Seth Washburn was fifty-two years old when the war began. He was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and afterward, though not in the army, was muster-master for Worcester County and served the eause on several important committees.

Col. Samuel Denny marched as lieutenant-eolonel with the minute-men, on the 19th of April, and served as eolonel during the early part of the war.

Dr. John Honeywood was surgeon and died in the service at Fort Tieonderoga.

Dr. Israel Green was at Saratoga when Burgoyne was taken.

Dr. Austin Flint enlisted, at the age of seventeen, as a soldier and was present at the taking of Burgoyne. He was afterward surgeon.

Lieut.-Col. Joseph Henshaw marched with the minute-men. He afterward served on important committees, eonferring with other States.

Capt. David Henshaw was in the service three years.

Capt. John Southgate, Capt. William Todd and Lieut. William Crossman were also in the serviee.

Lieut. Nathan Craig was at the battles of Bunker Hill and Saratoga.

Lieutenant Joseph Washburn was at the battles of Saratoga and Monmouth, and also at Valley Forge. Captain Thomas Newhall was in eommand of the standing eompany on the 19th of April, and was muster-master for Worcester County. Captain John Holden served through the war, and was present at the storming of Stony Point. Captain John Brown commanded a company in the French War, and was in the battle of Bunker Hill as a sergeant. Rev. Benjamin Conklin was probably a chaplain.

Joseph Bass, of the "water service," who resided in Leicester after the war, was one of the heroes of what Irving, in his "Life of Washington," calls the "gallant little exploit" on the Hudson, the attempted "destruction of the ships which had so long been domineering over its waters," by means of fireships. Washburn, in his history, gives an extended narrative of the affair. Bass had charge of one of the sloops, the "Polly," which was supplied with inflammable materials, and which, under heavy fire of artillery, he fastened to the tender of one of the frigates, setting it on fire and destroying it with most of the men on board. Bass, with all his men, leaped into the life-boat, and rowed away without injury. The frigates eseaped, but were prudently withdrawn from so dangerous a locality.

Solomon Parsons was severely wounded in the battle of Monmouth. He was shot, his thigh was broken, and afterwards, as he lay upon the ground, he was robbed, stabbed and roughly dragged about by the enemy, and narrowly escaped being run over by eavalry and artillery. He lay all the afternoon of that terribly hot day, in the sun, until he was rescued by Lieutenant Joseph Washburn.

These facts and figures give but a faint idea of the

burdens and sufferings of the people in the gloomy period of the Revolution, and the strain upon their resources and fortitude. They did not flinch when the time came to test the sincerity and value of their resolutions. They well redeemed the pledge to maintain the cause of independence at "the risk of their lives and fortunes."

CHAPTER III.

LEICESTER—(*Continued.*)

State Constitution: Objections, Adoption—Jealousy of Rights—Shays' Insurrection: Causes, Convention, High Feeling, Dispersion of the Insurgents, Captain Day, Oath of Allegiance—Fine for Non-Representation in the General Court—Slavery in Leicester—"Instructions"—Jews: Aaron Lopez—Rivera Letter to Colonel Henshaw.

Soon after the Declaration of Independence measures were taken for the organization of a Constitutional State Government. These movements were, however, regarded premature and ill-advised. In October, 1776, the town voted that the House of Representatives of this State ought not to institute any new form of government at present, and chose a committee "to show the court why the town objects to settling a new constitution." Some of these objections stated were that there was no provision for amendment, that the town was not fully represented, that they were not allowed a Representative, and "that a number of the first principal inhabitants" were "in the service." The Constitution first formed was rejected by the people.

In 1779 the town voted unanimously to send two men—Seth Washburn and William Henshaw—"to frame a Constitution of Massachusetts." These gentlemen were prominent in the convention. The Constitution was the next year approved by the town, article by article, by a large majority.

Struggling against the oppression of the mother country, the people were equally jealous of any encroachments upon their rights by the government they were seeking to organize and establish. In their various resolutions and other acts in the later years of the last century there is evidence of their determination to secure a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." They protested against "monopolies." In 1777 they earnestly condemned the act of the General Court, calling in bills of credit and sinking them in a loan, as "cruel and oppressive" and "grinding the faces of the poor." In January of the next year they raised twelve hundred pounds and loaned to the State. In 1787 they instructed their representative, Samuel Denny, to oppose the excessive tax on farmers and on polls; also to oppose high salaries, as in present circumstances it was not well to "support courtly dignity." They expressed themselves as opposed to the "support of commerce," so "as to prevent their giving due encouragement to our own manufactures." The location of the Legislature appears to have been a subject much agitated, and at the same time the town declared "the setting of the General Government in the town of Boston is a Matter which the Citizens of this Commonwealth are not generally satisfied with," and advised that its removal to some other place be tried by "experience."

The eight years' struggle of the Revolution had hardly ended when the State was threatened with a formidable civil war. It was the natural reaction from the long-continued strain upon the endurance of the people. They had been taxed to their utmost limit; all interests had suffered; the people were impoverished; the currency had depreciated and finally became valueless; the State had no credit; the condition of the Government and of the community was one of bankruptcy; and thousands of suits were brought before the courts, and forced sales were numerous. Some of the acts of the Legislature were regarded as oppressive. General conventions were held in the county to confer with reference to these complaints. Two of these were in Leicester. The presence of wise and loyal men like David Henshaw and Col. Thomas Denny was a check upon rash action. When at length the dissatisfaction developed into insurrection, under the leadership of Daniel Shays, the town withdrew its delegates. The excitement was intense and the sentiments of the people were divided, some sympathizing with the insurgents and joining their ranks. As in the War of the Roses the parties had their distinctive badges, the insurgents a green sprig and the supporters of the Government a white fillet of paper. The Rev. Benjamin Conklin, loyal to the nation and the commonwealth as in the days of the Revolution, was repeatedly forced to leave his home and hide himself to escape seizure by the insurgents in the night.

The same loyal leadership and the same patient devotion to the government which were conspicuous in the Revolution, held the town to a wise and patriotic course. Every man in town over twenty years of age was by vote required to take an oath of allegiance to the State, and the list of those who thus complied was to be reported at town-meeting.

The excitement and peril of the rebellion culminated in Worcester, in December, 1786, in an attempt of the insurgent army to prevent the opening of the court. The house of Mr. Joseph Allen, then residing in Worcester, was guarded by a sentinel, who opposed him with a fixed bayonet to prevent him from going to court. Seth Washburn seized the guard and wrested his musket from him. Lincoln, in his "History of Worcester," states that Justice Seth Washburn himself was also met by the guard, and that two friends who "seized the gun presented to his breast" were arrested and detained in custody.

On the memorable 8th of December, the day in which Shays and his army retreated from Worcester

in a snow storm of such severity and cold so intense that many of his men were overcome and some were frozen to death, Luke Day, one of the insurgent captains, reached Leicester with one hundred and fifty men, but was prevented by the storm from joining the main body at Worcester. Scant courtesy did the rebels receive from the sturdy patriots of that day. When this same Day, on his way from Worcester to Springfield on a cold winter day, entered the house of Nathan Sargent and made free to warm himself by the fire and ostentatiously announced himself as Capt. Day, he soon found himself, with hat and sword preceding him, floundering in the snow-drift outside. Several Leicester men participated in the march through drifting snow and were present on the 3d of February when the insurgents, upon the approach of the State forces to their rendezvous at Petersham, fled without the firing of a gun, so completely discomfited that, as Lincoln in his "History of Worcester" expresses it, "had an army dropped from the clouds upon the hill the consternation could not have been greater." Dr. Austin Flint was one of the number, having, as he said, volunteered "to help drive the Mobites out."

During all the later years of the century persons who engaged in trade or kept public-houses were required to take a stringent oath of allegiance to the republic.

For many years the salaries of representatives to the "Great and General Court" were paid by the several towns. The town in 1789 was fined for not sending a representative; and in a memorial, an ancient copy of which is before the writer, the town petitioned to have the fine remitted. The memorial bears date of May 10, 1790, and is strikingly illustrative of the straits into which the people had been placed. They were still in debt for money borrowed to be loaned "to the Commonwealth" and for the payment of "soldiers," and for the erection of a "House of Public Worship," and they were "at a greater expense than most towns for repairing their roads owing to their hills being wet and rocky."

Slavery has never existed under the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts. There were slaves in the Province till the time of the Revolution, but the Constitution adopted in 1780 declared the right of "all men to enjoy and defend their lives and liberties." The number of slaves in Leicester was small; still they were here; Titus and Cain, and Cæsar, and Quashi, and Prymus, and Pompey, and Will, and Pegg, and Jenny, and Dinah, and Prince, and Jethro, the last person buried in the burying-yard by the church; but they were treated as wards rather than as slaves. They lived, and worked, and ate with the families, in some cases were paid wages, and in repeated instances were set free. Mr. Ralph Earle not only freed his slave Sharp, but also gave him in 1756 a farm of thirty acres. But slavery, even in its mildest form, was discordant with the spirit of a freedom-loving people. In 1773 the town gave expression to its views on the subject in instructions to its Representative, Mr. Thomas Denny: "And as we have the highest regard for (so as even to revere the name of) liberty, we cannot behold but with the greatest abhorrence any of our fellow-creatures in a state of slavery."

An interesting episode in the history of the town was the settlement here, in 1777, of a colony of Jews. Mr. Aaron Lopez, who was carrying on an extensive business in Newport, R. I., that year removed to Leicester, Newport being then in the possession of British troops; with him came several other Jewish families. There were about seventy persons in all, twelve of them being slaves. He built, on the part of the present Common now owned by the Academy, a house in the central room of which he "kept store," in which, in the words of H. G. Henshaw, Esq., he "carried on a successful trafic in Bohea and Gunpowder teas, serges, calamancos,," and doubtless a variety of other articles. Mr. Rivera had a store on the site of the hotel. "They were too patriotic to refuse in payment for their commodities Continental bills, the currency of the times; but felt rather scrupulous about holding such treacherous paper over the Sabbath, and were careful to pass it off to the farmers in exchange for neat stock or grain." They were strict in the observance of Jewish law. They carefully observed the seventh day, and also refrained from business on Sunday. A child having incautiously tasted of pork, at a neighbor's house, was treated with an emetic, by way of purification.

Mr. Lopez was a man of high character and standing, courteous and affable in manner, of extensive commercial knowledge and strict integrity in business, hospitable and benevolent. His style of living was for those days elegant. His stock in trade at the time of his death was valued at $12,000, and his estate at $100,000. Abraham Mendez and Jacob Reed Rivera were other prominent members of the colony, and carried on business, though on a smaller scale. On the 20th of May, 1782, Mr. Lopez, while on his way, in a sulky, to Providence, accompanied by his family in a carriage, was drowned before their eyes at Smithfield, R. I., in Smith Pond, into which he had driven to water his horse. At the close of the war the company returned to Newport, followed by the respect and regard of the people, with whom they had found a hospitable and congenial home. After their departure a friendly correspondence was maintained and probably an interchange of visits. One of the letters remains. It was written by Mr. Rivera to Col. Henshaw, in a clear and beautiful hand, and the whole style and spirit of the letter are indicative of the intelligence and high character of the writer, and of his appreciation of the friendship of the people of Leicester, and of the value of our national institutions. "I am happy," he writes, "to find my countrymen (the Spanish nation) begin to divest themselves from bigotry, ignorance and indolence, and adopt in

their room learning, liberty and liberality of sentiments in religious matters. That system, with proper encouragements to arts and sciences, make no doubt, will, in time, enable them to arrive to that state of perfection that will class them with all other civilized and enlightened nations, and enrich that impoverished nation, and I am confident to say, great advantages will derive to that nation in particular, and the whole world in general, from the American Revolution."

CHAPTER IV.

LEICESTER—(*Continued*).

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The First Church: First Meeting-House, Rev. David Parsons, Controversy with the Town, Rev. David Goddard, Whitefield and Edwards, Rev. Joseph Roberts, Rev. Benjamin Conklin, Dr. Moore, Dr. Nelson, Later Pastors, Second Meeting-House, Present Meeting-House, Church Music, Bible Reading, Sunday-School Parish. Friends' Meeting: Origin, Meeting House, Second House, Asa Swift, Intelligence, Anti-Slavery, Mulberry Grove School. Grecnville Baptist Church: Church in Sutton, Pastors, Dr. Thomas Green, Other Pastors, Sunday-School, One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary. Second Congregational Church: Organization, Pastors, Christ Church, Rochdale, Methodist Episcopal Church, Cherry Valley, Centre, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Roman Catholic Church, St. Thomas' Church, Cherry Valley.

First Congregational Church.—The records of the First Congregational Church previous to the settlement of the Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore, in 1798, are lost, with the exception of a few detached pages. The exact date of organization is unknown. The town was incorporated in 1714, and the farms purchased by the settlers began to be occupied soon afterward. It is not probable that church privileges in some form, and church organization were long neglected. A meeting-house had been built in 1719. It stood on the Common, nearly in front of the present church. It was a small and very plain, rude structure. It had a door in front and one on each end. It was clap-boarded, but not painted. It was without a porch, belfry, gallery or pews. The windows were small and lighted with diamond-shaped glass. It was sealed to "the great girt," but probably not overhead. Like all the churches of the time, it was without heating apparatus of any kind. Later, individuals built in it their own pews on the "pew ground" or "pew spots." There were comfortless "body" seats, the women sitting on the west side and the men on the east. Galleries were added about 1728. Repairs and modifications were made from time to time, by the addition of pews, placing seats in the galleries, adding in 1743 twelve feet on the back side, putting on a new "ruff," moving the pulpit to the back side, re-covering the house with "the old clap-boards taken off the back side," putting up steps, and in 1754 a sounding-board. In this house the people from all parts of the town came together to worship God. In it they held their town-meetings and all other public gatherings, and it was here that they earnestly, courageously, eloquently and with statesman-like ability and forethought enunciated the principles of liberty on which our republic was founded.

The first town action with reference to the settlement of a pastor appears to have been taken November 28, 1720, when it was voted that Mr. David Parsons be our Gospel minister. Two days later a call was sent him by a committee. In this letter they write, "Rev'd Sir, we with one heart and consent Do call and Invite you to be our Minister in the Work of the Gospel amongst us, if you see Cause to accept and see your way clear to remove; but alas if we reflect back upon ourselves, we can't but see we are utterly unworthy of so great a Blessing; but if you have such a Blessing to bestow on us, as we hope you will be, we desire forever to praise his name for his Goodness to us ward." He was to "have the forty-acre lot next the Meeting House," and "rights," "as other forty-acre lots," and a salary of sixty pounds, and sixty pounds settlement. As he hesitated to accept on these terms, thirty individuals agreed to add to the amount, so that the salary should be seventy-five pounds, and the settlement one hundred pounds.

Rev. David Parsons was born in Northampton in 1680, graduated from Harvard College in 1705, pastor of the church in Malden twelve years, where he had a church quarrel and lawsuit with the town; installed at Leicester in 1721, dismissed March 6, 1735, and died in Leicester, where he was buried October 12, 1743. Whitney, in his "History of Worcester County," gives the date of his installation as, "by the best accounts now to be had, September 15, 1721," but the town records indicate that he was already pastor early in the year. The town, "reduced to low circumstances by reason of the Indian War," soon found it difficult to comply with the conditions of settlement, and petitioned the Legislature for aid, which was granted to the amount of ten pounds. But the salary continued to be in arrears and Mr. Parsons appealed to the Legislature, and the town was notified to show cause. This was the beginning of a quarrel which lasted for sixteen years. Within six years the town, which had regarded itself "unworthy of so great a blessing," voted "that the town be willing that Mr. Parsons should remove, and remain out of this town." The town strenuously endeavored for years "to be relieved from Mr. Parsons' bondage," but in those days such an endeavor was attended with insurmountable difficulties. Memorials were made by the parties to the Legislature, complaints to the Quarter Sessions and appeals to the General Court. Those who were conscientiously opposed to Mr. Parsons were released by act of the Legislature from his support upon six months' notice, on condition of providing "an able orthodox minister, generally to dispense the Word of God among them," or attendance and taxation in

some neighboring congregation. The General Court passed an act releasing the town from Mr. Parsons' support, but the act was vetoed by Governor Belcher. "Six Worcester gentlemen came as mediators," but were unsuccessful. There were differences among the people and changes of town action in relation to the subject. Successive councils were called, one of which sat four days in Watertown, and adjourned to Boston, where it was continued four days longer. The result of this council reproves Mr. Parsons for "any rashness in his words, and hastiness in his actions," and shows that he had been arbitrary, had called the meetings of his opposers a "Mob," had assumed power not belonging to "a pastor according to the constitution of these churches;" that he, with "rash and injurious" expressions, had ordered the deacon "out of his seat," and had recognized the minority, composed of his friends, as the church, and received members into the church without due authority. But they judged, "as a former council did," that he had been "shamefully treated with respect to his support," and deprived of his "just and full title to lands in Leicester." The communion service had been withheld from his use and that of the church. "They had opposed his going into the pulpit on the Lord's Day," and "set up another in opposition to him," and had withdrawn from public worship to "private assembling." "The like was never done in this land before." He was at length dismissed by a mutual council. This controversy with the town, however, continued and he provided that his grave should not be with that of his people, but in his own grounds. The stone stood for many years near the Paxton Road; it for a time was lost, but at length was found in the house upon the place, used as the floor of the oven. It has now found a resting-place in the church building, together with that of Mrs. Parsons.

More than a year intervened before the settlement of the next pastor. In December a fast was appointed "in order to make choice of a minister." The Rev. David Goddard was the choice of the people. He was born in Framingham, September 26, 1706; graduated at Harvard in 1731; ordained June 30, 1736; and died January 19, 1754, at Framingham of "the great sickness," in that region, of which in the town of Holliston, fifty-four out of a population of four hundred died in six weeks. He was a man of devoted piety, morbidly conscientious, sympathized with the people in their financial straits, and was in full sympathy with the great religious movements of his time. In the afternoon of October 15, 1740, Rev. George Whitefield preached in Leicester, and in January, 1742, Rev. Jonathan Edwards, of Northampton, spent several weeks here in evangelistic labor. In connection with this work there were evidently some extravagances. Dr. Hall, of Sutton, while preaching here, was disturbed by "a woman somewhat troublesome," "frequent in fainting fits." Mr. Parsons, however, like Mr. Edwards, was judicious and cautious, and discountenanced all excesses; and his ministry was fruitful in spiritual results.

The Rev. Joseph Roberts, the third pastor, was born in Boston in 1720, and graduated from Harvard College in 1741. He was ordained October 23, 1754. His avaricious disposition soon occasioned dissatisfaction, and he was dismissed by council, December 14, 1762. He removed to Weston, where he was an active patriot, and was a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1779. Engaging in business, he lost, and refusing to pay the debts of the company, was in prison, as a debtor, three years. He became a misanthrope and a miser, and lived like a beggar. He died April 30, 1811, at the age of ninety-one. After his death bags of money were found in his house, the bags so rotten as to burst when lifted.

His successor was Rev. Benjamin Conklin, who was born in Southold, L. I.; graduated from Princeton in 1755 and installed November 23, 1763. He was dismissed, on account of failing health, June 30, 1794, and died in Leicester, January 30, 1798. Dr. Moore, in the church records, gives his age as sixty-six years and six weeks. The inscription on his grave-stone is, "aged 65 years." He was a prominent adviser and actor in the Revolutionary struggle, a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and supposed to have been at one time a chaplain in the army. He was respected and beloved by his people, and the record of his patriotism, in the struggle with England and in the Shays' insurrection, adds lustre to the annals of the town. It is related of him that when asked if he would preach in the pulpit of a distinguished Unitarian minister, his answer was, "Yes, I would preach on Mars Hill if I could get a chance."

Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore, D.D., was ordained January 10, 1798. He was born in Palmer, November 20, 1770; graduated from Dartmouth College in 1793; and was dismissed October 8, 1811; made professor of languages in Dartmouth College in 1811; president of Williams College in 1815; and of Amherst in 1821. He left a permanent influence upon the church and the town. He was a man of marked intellectual power and literary culture. His style was clear, simple and persuasive. When he was called to Dartmouth College, his people regarded his appointment as little less than robbery. When he left town they accompanied him in carriages, and the children stood, with uncovered heads, in long lines on each side of the way while he passed.

Professor William Tyler, D.D., of Amherst College, describes him as "a man of medium size, but commanding presence, weighing some two hundred and forty pounds, yet without any appearance of obesity, neat in his dress, retaining the use of short breeches and long hose, which were particularly becoming to his person. In his manners there was a union of suavity with dignity, rare anywhere, especially in persons bred in the country, which marked

him as a gentleman of the old school, one of nature's noblemen, and which, while it attracted the love of his pupils, invariably commanded also their respect." Rev. Dr. Thomas Snell, of North Brookfield, in his funeral sermon characterizes him as "by nature a great man, by grace a good man, and by the providence of God a useful man, a correct thinker and a lucid writer, a sound theologian, instructive preacher and greatly beloved pastor, a wise counselor and sympathizing friend, and a friend and father especially to all the young men of the infant college in which he was at the same time a winning teacher and a firm presiding officer."

Rev. John Nelson, D.D., was the sixth pastor of the church. He was born in Hopkinton, Mass., May 9, 1786. He was graduated from Williams College in 1807, and studied theology with Rev. Samuel Austin, D.D., of Worcester. He remained pastor of the church till his death, December 6, 1871, a period of fifty-nine years, nine months and two days.

It is said that there were twelve hundred sleighs on and around the Common on the day of ordination, and that there were three thousand people assembled, only a portion of whom could, of course, enter the church. It was during the ministry of Dr. Nelson that the church had its principal growth, there being at the time of his settlement only sixty-five members. He was an interesting and animated preacher, a favorite in the surrounding churches, and honored and beloved by his own people. He received the degree of D.D. from Williams College, in 1843, was a trustee of that college from 1826 to 1833, and of Amherst College from 1839 to 1848. He was a trustee of Leicester Academy from 1812 to his death, in 1871, and president from 1834. He was for many years a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He was chaplain of the local regiment of militia sixteen years from 1812. He was often appointed to preach on public occasions, and was personally identified with the great moral and religious movements of his time. "Dr. Nelson descended from a strong, intelligent and pious ancestry. He early became a Christian, and united with the church. He was profoundly reverential and consecrated in spirit. He was pre-eminently judicious and considerate in action, and singularly broad and catholic in his moral and religious judgments. Forgetful of self, he was always thoughtful of the happiness of others. Nurtured in a genial and happy home, inured to labor and hardship in his struggles for an education, brought while in college into the atmosphere of a great religious awakening and intense missionary zeal, and actively associated with the great moral and religious movements of his time, he was trained and fitted for the ministry which he accomplished. His qualities were of the enduring kind. He loved his people and he loved his work. He was pastor of the church for nearly sixty years, and his loving, pure and gentle spirit won for him the lasting respect and affection of his people, and of all who knew him."[1]

The fiftieth anniversary of his settlement and marriage was celebrated May 6, 1862. His sermon was from Job 32: 7: "I said days should speak; and multitude of years should teach wisdom." Governor Washburn presided at the after-dinner exercises, and addresses were made by several clergymen. Rev. George Blagden, D.D., presided at the golden wedding. The occasion was as interesting as it was rare.

In consequence of failing health it became necessary for Dr. Nelson to have assistance in the pastoral office, and on the 4th of March, 1851, the Rev. Andrew C. Dennison was ordained as his assistant. He was born in Hampton, Conn., June 27, 1822; was graduated from Yale College in 1847, and from Union Theological Seminary in 1850. He was dismissed in March, 1856, and afterward settled at West Chester and Portland, Conn. He is now pastor of the Congregational Church in Middlefield, Conn.

Rev. Amos H. Coolidge, the present pastor of the church, was born in Sherborn, Mass., August 17, 1827, graduated from Amherst College in 1853 and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1856. He was ordained April 21, 1857. The day was made memorable by one of the most remarkable snow-storms of modern times. Eighteen inches of snow fell, and the furious winds blew it into drifts which made the roads impassable. Only about one hundred persons attended the services, and but a small fraction of the council was present. The sermon was by Rev. Prof. Austin Phelps, D.D., of Andover Theological Seminary.

The second meeting-house was built in 1784, a little in the rear of the old site. The pulpit was in front octagonal. It had over it a sounding-board, and just below, the "deacons' seat." There were galleries on three sides of the house, which, with the pulpit and deacons' seat, were painted to resemble shaded marble. The pews were square, and each seat was hung upon hinges. In prayer-time they were turned up and their united fall as the congregation resumed their seats justified the fears of the Philadelphian, unused to such an amen, in his movement to escape from the house. A belfry and steeple were added afterward, and in 1828 the building was moved back to the location of the present church building. In 1829 the interior was entirely renovated. A bell and a clock, made by George Holbrook, of Brookfield, were placed on it January 13, 1803. The bell was re-cast in 1810 and again in 1834, and about the year 1834 Joshua Clapp, Esq., presented the town with a clock. The first organ was purchased in 1827, the second in 1844 and the third in 1867. The house was first warmed by fires about the year 1821.

The present meeting-house was dedicated Novem-

[1] Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, 1887.

ber 10, 1867. In 1888 the interior was changed by the removal of the organ-loft and galleries for the choir to the rear of the pulpit.

For more than sixty years the singing was purely congregational. The hymns were read by the deacon, and then sung line by line by the congregation. In 1789 a choir, by permission, occupied the front seat in the gallery. There was a short trial of sound between the deacon and the choir, in which the choir gained the permanent advantage, not, however, without greatly scandalizing some of the members, and causing them to leave the house.

Bible-reading formed no part of the service here in the last century. The first Bible thus used was published by Isaiah Thomas, and was presented to the society by Col. William Henshaw. It was read for the first time by Dr. Moore, May 4, 1800. The first action with reference to "a plan of Sunday-school" was taken May 3, 1819, and at first the schools were held in school-houses in different parts of the town. It is believed that before the year 1887 there had been but three regularly elected superintendents. The first was Deacon Joshua Murdock. Deacon Christopher C. Denny was elected in 1848, and Hon. Charles A. Denny April 6, 1862. He resigned after twenty-five years' service.

The parish was at first identified with the town, and its business transacted in the regular town-meeting till 1794. After this time those voters who had not withdrawn to other societies met after the regular town-meeting, on the same day, until February 9, 1833, when "The First Parish of Leicester" was organized.

Friends' Meeting.[1]—Until about eighteen years after the incorporation of Leicester the people of the entire original township worshipped together on Strawberry Hill. A Society of Friends was then organized. It belonged to the "Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England," a body composed of several "Quarterly Meetings," each made up of minor "Monthly Meetings," which, in turn, embraced subordinate "Preparative Meetings," containing one or more "Meetings for Worship." The Meeting here was not only a Meeting for Worship, but a Preparative Meeting. "The Leicester Preparative Meeting" was at first a subordinate of the Smithfield, R. I., Monthly Meeting, but after the division of that Meeting in 1783, it became subordinate to the Uxbridge Monthly Meeting.

In 1732 Ralph Earle, his three sons—William, Robert and Benjamin—Thomas Smith, Daniel Hill, Nathaniel Potter and Joseph Potter declared themselves to the clerk of the town to be Friends and asked, on account of conscientious scruples, to be released from paying "any part of the tax for the support of the minister or ministers established by the Laws of the province." At the Smithfield Monthly Meeting, held January 29, 1739, according to the records, "Friends at Leicester make report to this meeting that they have agreed upon a Place for Building a Meeting-House at the Burying Place between Ralph Earle's and Nathaniel Potter's; and this meeting doth appoint Benjamin Earle, Nathaniel Potter, Thomas Smith and John Wells, all of said Leicester, to take Deed of the same; and Benjamin Earle, Thomas Smith and Nathaniel Potter are appointed to undertake for Building said House." The same meeting afterward contributed "four Pounds" toward its construction. The lot on which the house was built was a part of the farm which Robert Earle received from Ralph Earle, his father, with a small tract from the farm of Nathaniel Potter, located by the brook, and added in order that the horses of the worshippers, let loose to feed during the service, might have water. The land was conveyed to Samuel Thayer, of Mendon, Mass., on the 13th of August, 1739, and by him to the persons appointed by the Monthly Meeting on the 27th of December of the same year. It was "to go entire and without any division unto ye survivor and survivors of them, and to the heirs and assigns of ye survivors or survivor of them forever." The Uxbridge Monthly Meetings were held here three times in the year, and for a time the Smithfield November Quarterly Meeting. Washburn describes the house built at this time as "a low, one-story building, twenty by twenty-two feet." It was sold, removed and converted into a dwelling-house in 1791, and has since been destroyed.

The second meeting-house was built in 1791. It remained many years after the meetings were discontinued. Its location was secluded and singularly attractive. It was surrounded and shaded by ancient forest trees, and stood amid the graves of the worshippers of successive generations, some of them buried without reference to family relationship, and with graves marked simply by rough head-stones. It was of two stories, the upper floor being upon three sides a gallery, connected with the lower by an oblong opening in the centre. On a part of the lower floor were elevated seats for ministers, elders and overseers. The men were separated from the women by a partition, the upper part of which was hung on hinges so as to open and form one audience-room. The object of this partition was to separate the sexes at the business meetings, the women as well as the men holding a meeting of their own, the two being theoretically upon an equality. The house was taken down about twelve years ago.

In 1826, according to Washburn's history, the society had about one hundred and twenty members. This number was probably never exceeded. The last minister of the Gospel, recognized by the Yearly Meeting, who was a member of the Leicester Meeting,

[1] For most of the facts relating to the "Friends' Meeting," the writer is indebted to Dr. Pliny Earle. The history of the Baptist Church was written by Rev. H. E. Estes, D.D., and that of the Second Unitarian Church by Rev. S. May. The writer is indebted also to Rev. D. F. McGrath, the parish priest, for the facts relating to the Roman Catholic Church.

was Avis Swift, wife of Josiah Keene. She resided in Leicester from about 1812 to 1820. She was born in Nantucket, and was "a woman of much religious experience, of superior intellectual powers and of a large intelligence, and was greatly beloved by all who had the privilege of her acquaintance." She afterward lived in Lynn, where she died. In consequence of the removal of members from town, the society became reduced in numbers and the meetings were discontinued in 1853.

The Quakers, as the Friends are generally called, were averse to public life. They could not conscientiously take or administer an oath, and they were originally disposed to separate themselves as much as practicable from "the world's people." This disposition diminished with the lapse of years. Dr. Pliny Earle, to whom we are indebted for most of the facts of this history, truthfully says that "during the first quarter of the current century a no inconsiderable part of the most intelligent and highly cultivated society in the town was to be found among them." Early in the last century they in theory and practice renounced slavery. They were in this respect evidently in harmony with the sentiment of the people of the town, which found, as we have seen, an early and emphatic public expression. The Friends, however, were first to adopt the anti-slavery principle as one of the canons of their organization, and remained true to that principle in all the struggle.

In 1827, May 15th, a boarding and day school for young ladies was opened at the house of Pliny Earle, situated at the junction of Mulberry and Earle Streets, and continued till 1839. It was known as the "Mulberry Grove School," and was taught by Sarah Earle and her sisters Lucy and Eliza; the farm-house near being used for the recitation rooms. Sarah Earle was principal till her marriage, in 1832, when she was succeeded by Eliza. The French language and painting were taught; but it was professedly an English school, and the instruction was characterized by great thoroughness. The public examinations were in the Friends' meeting-house. At one of them Governor Emory Washburn, being present, remarked that he had often heard of the excellence of the school, but "the half had not been told."

Greenville Baptist Church.—Some of the first settlers in Leicester were Baptists, and among them Dr. Thomas Green. He was dismissed from the First Baptist Church in Boston to aid in forming a church in Sutton in 1735. At least eight other persons residing in Leicester,—Thomas Richardson, Daniel Denny, Elisha Nevers, Martha Green, Joshua Nichols Abiathar Vinton, Bathsheba Nevers and Lydia Vinton—had been baptized in Sutton and Leicester by a Baptist minister, named John Converse, three years before. On the 28th of September, 1737, Dr. Green and Benjamin Marsh were ordained associate pastors of the church in Sutton, "and September 28, 1738, by mutual agreement, the brethren in Leicester became a church by themselves, and Green their pastor." ("Backus' History," vol. ii., page 31.).

Since its organization the pastors of the church have been Thomas Green, 1738–73; Benjamin Foster, D.D., 1776–82; Isaac Beall, 1783–88; Nathan Dana, 1794–97; Peter Rogers, 1803–13; Benjamin N. Harris, 1827–30; John Green, 1830–40; Moses Harrington, 1840–49; L. O. Lovell, 1856–58; H. C. Estes, 1860–62; N. B. Cooke, 1862–68; L. Holmes, 1869–76; J. Sawyer, 1876–77; J. W. Searle, 1877–81; A. W. Spaulding, 1882–86; H. C. Estes, D.D., 1886. Dr. Estes was graduated from Waterville College (now Colby University) in 1847.

Dr. Thomas Green was a man of great ability, prominence and influence. He was largely engaged in business and remarkably successful. He was a physician, eminent in his profession, with a practice that extended into neighboring States, and with many medical students under his instruction. And he was quite as distinguished and successful in his work of the ministry. After his death it was said of him in an English periodical that he had baptized not less than one thousand persons. The Rev. Isaac Backus, the historian of the Baptists in New England, visited him in 1756, held a meeting with his people, and the next day wrote the following words in his journal: "Oct. 19th. I can but admire how the doctor is able to get along as he does, having a great deal of farming business to manage, multitudes of sick to take care of, several apprentices to instruct in the art of physic, and a church to care for and watch over; yet in the midst of all he seems to keep religion uppermost—to have his mind bent upon divine things—and to be very bold in Christian conversation with all sorts of people."

His successor, Dr. Foster, was ordained October 23, 1776. In January of that year he had married Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of Dr. Green. He was a graduate of Yale College, and distinguished for his learning, faithfulness and successful work. Under his ministry the church was much enlarged and strengthened. He was the author of two learned works published while he preached in Leicester, and in recognition of the ability shown in another work published later, he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Brown University in 1792. After having been pastor of the First Baptist Church in New York ten years, he died there of yellow fever in 1798, at the age of forty-eight years.

Under the ministry of the Rev. John Green the church enjoyed much prosperity. In those ten years the additions were ninety-six, and the membership was increased to eighty, the largest in its history, though at one time in Dr. Forbes' ministry the number of members was seventy-six. The membership is now fifty-four.

When the church has been without a settled minister it has often had valuable stated supplies from ministers living in Worcester or elsewhere: Nathan

Price, 1799; Ebenezer Burt, 1802–3; Benjamin M. Hill, 1816–18; Luther Goddard, 1821; Ebenezer Burt, 1824–25; Otis Converse, 1850–51; John F. Burbank, 1852–53; N. Hervey, 1854–56.

Benjamin M. Hill was a distinguished man, not yet ordained when he preached in Leicester, but afterwards pastor in New Haven, Ct., and Troy, N.Y., nearly twenty years, then corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society twenty-three years, and widely known and honored as the Rev. Dr. Hill, who died in 1881.

In 1747 the church had a house of worship already built and occupied, which, with its grounds and the cemetery adjoining, two acres in extent, was the gift of Dr. Green, of whom, after his decease, the historian, Isaac Backus, said, "He was the main support of his society in temporals and spirituals all his days." That house was repaired in 1779 at a cost of three hundred and fifty pounds, and again it was repaired and enlarged in 1824; then, after it had been occupied more than a hundred and ten years, it was replaced by a new and attractive house, with organ, bell and clock, which was dedicated in 1860 and is now occupied.

The Sunday-school was commenced in 1821. At first it was held in the afternoon "after meetings." For several years its numbers were few, sometimes ten, sometimes twenty-five and, like most Sunday-schools of that time, it was suspended during the winter. But, in 1829 and 1830, it received a sudden and surprising impulse. In the latter year its number of scholars was increased to eighty, and in 1834 it rose to one hundred and sixty. Since then the school has numbered about one hundred—sometimes more, sometimes less.

On Friday, the 28th of September, 1888, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church, commemorative services were held, in which the Green family, descendants of the first pastor, took part; and an interesting feature of the exercises was the presentation of a fine brass tablet, which had been placed upon the wall by the Hon. Andrew H. Green, of New York, in memory of his distinguished ancestor, Dr. Thomas Green.

Second Congregational Society.—"In the autumn and winter of 1832–33," says Washburn, in his "History of Leicester," "several families in the town formed a Unitarian Religious Society." In April, 1833, sixteen gentlemen—among whom were Waldo Flint, Isaac Southgate, Joseph D. Sargent, John Whittemore, Dwight Bisco, Lyman Waite, Silas Gleason and Edward Flint—applied to be incorporated as "The Second Congregational Society in Leicester," and received incorporation on the 13th of said month. From that time forward regular services of worship were held in the old Town Hall, and in June, 1834, the society gave a unanimous call to Rev. Samuel May, of Boston, to become their minister, which he accepted. On the 12th of August following their new meeting-house was dedicated, when Rev. James Walker, of Charlestown, preached the sermon; and, on the following day, Mr. May was ordained by an ecclesiastical council, of which Rev. Dr. Aaron Bancroft, of Worcester, was moderator. The sermon of ordination was by Rev. F. W. P. Greenwood, of King's Chapel, Boston; the ordaining prayer by Dr. Bancroft; the charge by Rev. Dr. Charles Lowell, of Boston, and the right hand of fellowship by Rev. Samuel J. May, then of Brooklyn, Conn. A church of twelve members had already been gathered. The sermons of Rev. Messrs. Walker and Greenwood were printed in a neat pamphlet. Mr. May continued minister for twelve years, and in the summer of 1846 resigned the office. Since his time the changes in the ministry have been many; but the society has been sustained by an honorable devotedness on the part of its members, and the list of its ministers includes the names of men of eminent ability. Those whose terms were of two years or more duration were as follows: Rev. Frederick Hinckley, 1847–48; Rev. James Thompson, D.D., who had just closed a long and prosperous ministry in Barre, 1849–51; Rev. Wm. Coe, of Worcester, 1851–54; Rev. Joseph Angier, of Milton, 1855 and 1856; Rev. F. Macintyre, of Grafton, 1858–59; Rev. James Thurston, 1862–64; Rev. J. J. Putnam, of Worcester, 1864–65. In 1866 considerable changes were made in the interior of the meeting-house, on the completion of which Rev. Everett Finley became minister, February, 1867, and continued until his death, which occurred early in 1869. His body lies buried in Leicester, in Pine Grove Cemetery. In July, 1869, Rev. David H. Montgomery became minister, and so continued eight years. Rev. S. B. Weston followed. During his ministry a question arose as to the application of the trust fund left to the society by Isaac Southgate, Esq., which being, by mutual agreement, referred to arbitration, it was decided unanimously that the fund was not available in Mr. Weston's case. Mr. Weston received the decision with honorable good feeling, resigning his office in 1881. It was not until 1883 that the society were prepared to settle a minister; but in September of that year Rev. Lewis G. Wilson was ordained by an ecclesiastical council, of which Rev. Dr. A. A. Livermore, of Meadville, Penn., was moderator. Mr. Wilson continued two years. Rev. Rodney F. Johonnot was ordained in September, 1886, and his ministry continued until September, 1888.

Christ Church, Rochdale.—The fiftieth anniversary of Christ Church in Rochdale was celebrated July 4, 1873. The sermon of the rector, Rev. B. F. Cooley, preached on that occasion, gives the history of the church to that date. "Divine service, according to the Liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was performed for the first time in Leicester, Mass., and for the first time, it is believed, in Worcester County, on the sixth day of July, 1823." The

church owed its origin to Mrs. Ann Wilby, an English lady who came to Leicester in 1822. She was buried under her pew in the church in 1826. Her family, with that of Mr. James Anderton, were the only Episcopalians in town. Services were for some time held in the hall of Hezekiah Stone's tavern.

The church building was erected in 1824, first occupied on Easter Sunday, April 18, and consecrated May 26 by Right Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, D.D. Rev. Joseph Muenscher, D.D., became minister of the parish March 14, 1824. He resigned the cure March 10, 1827. He was also the village schoolteacher. He was born in Providence, R. I., December 21, 1798, and graduated from Brown University in 1821, and Andover Theological Seminary in 1825. His marriage to Ruth, daughter of Joseph Washburn, was the first solemnized in a church, according to the Episcopal form, in Worcester County. Among the positions afterwards held by him was that of Professor of Sacred Literature, and later, Instructor in Hebrew in the Episcopal Theological Seminary, Gambier, Ohio. He was succeeded by Rev. William Horton, D.D. Rev. Lot Jones became rector in June, 1827. He was afterwards rector of the Church of the Epiphany in New York. He died in Philadelphia in 1865, while in attendance upon the General Convention, in consequence of a fall upon the steps of St. Luke's Church. Rev. C. Millett became minister in 1833. He was afterwards rector of the parish in Beloit, Wis. In August, 1834, Rev. Henry Blackaller became rector. He resigned in the spring of 1838. He died June 21, 1862, at the age of sixty-nine. Rev. Eleazer A. Greenleaf immediately succeeded him, remaining one year. Rev. John T. Sabine was minister one year, beginning in 1839. He died March 15, 1851, aged sixty-one. Rev. William Withington became minister in February, 1840, and remained one year. He was succeeded for one year by Rev. Fernando C. Putnam. From 1842 to 1844 the church had no rector, but was under the missionary charge of Rev. Orange Clark, D.D., who also ministered to the churches in Hopkinton and Montague. This was a period of great depression, but the church was "saved from utter ruin by the occasional missionary services of Dr. Clark and a few staunch churchmen on the spot." Rev. James L. Scott became minister in October, 1845, being ordained to the deaconate and priesthood here, after acting as lay reader for nearly fourteen months. He retired in April, 1849. Rev. J. Hill Rowse was rector from June 10, 1849, until his death, July, 1870. During his absence of three years as chaplain in the army, Rev. William B. Colburn and Rev. R. S. Paine officiated.

Rev. B. F. Cooley, his successor, resigned October 1, 1875. Rev. S. R. Bailey followed in the autumn of the same year, and retired October 1, 1879. Rev. Thomas W. Nickerson came to the church February 8, 1880, and is still its minister, his rectorship being the longest in the history of the church, with the exception of that of Rev. Mr. Rowse.

Rev. Mr. Rowse was chaplain in the Foster General Hospital, in Newbern, N. C. He was in that city in September, 1864, when it was visited with yellow fever. Says Captain J. W. Denny, then in command of the Twenty-fifth Regiment, "We met Chaplain Rowse, a faithful, earnest chaplain among the soldiers; he looked worn out. He said he had buried thirteen soldiers that forenoon, and as many waited his offices. We said to him, 'Chaplain, you are not able to do this work; you look worn out, and ought to leave immediately in order to save your own life.' 'No,' replied the chaplain, 'I am sick and weary. Some one may be called upon to bury me next, but I must not leave these soldiers; if I must die, I will die at my post of duty.'"[1] He had the fever, but recovered.

Methodist Episcopal Church.—In the fall of 1842 a series of meetings, continuing eight weeks, was held in the town hall, under direction of Rev. Horace Moulton, of Oxford. In these services he was assisted by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Moulton, a woman of great religious fervor and zeal.

As the result of these efforts, a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized October 15, 1844. The first minister of this church was Rev. William C. Clark.

In 1845, in consequence of differences of opinion with reference to the Episcopal mode of church administration, and the duty of the church in relation to slavery and temperance, the church was divided, and a Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized. The Methodist Episcopal Church then removed to Cherry Valley, and a house of worship was erected for it in 1846. The funds for building were subscribed by persons of different denominations, who recognized the need of religious services in Cherry Valley, and the control of the church was committed to trustees. It was stipulated in the compact that it was to be "a house of religious worship for the use of the ministers and members of, and the friends of, the Methodist Episcopal Church in said Leicester, according to the rules and discipline of said Church in the United States of America, except the First Calvinistic Congregational Church of said Leicester, or the Episcopalians of Cherry Valley, shall wish to occupy every other Sunday night for a third religious service, in which case they shall have the right."

This house was burned in February, 1856, and rebuilt by the trustees.

The appointments for the ministry of this church have been—Revs. George Dunbar, J. T. Pettel, George F. Pool, T. W. Lewis, D. Z. Kilgore, W. B. Olds, Daniel Atkins, G. E. Chapman, J. W. P. Jordan, Albert Gould, from 1859 to '60; W. F. Lacomb, from 1861 to '62, who enlisted as a member of

[1] Wearing the Blue in the Mass. Vol. Inf., p. 298.

the Forty-second Regiment; W. W. Colburn, from 1863 to '64; George Lewis, 1865; George F. Eaton, 1866 to '67; Charles H. Hanniford, 1868; Burtis Judd, 1869; J. B. Treadwell, 1870 to '71; A. Caldwell, 1872; N. Bemis, 1873 to '74; F. M. Miller, 1875 to '76; J. W. Fulton, 1877 to '79; W. A. Braman, 1880; W. N. Groome, 1881 to '82; W. E. Dwight, 1883; S. H. Noon, 1884 to '86; J. A. Mesler, 1887 to '88.

In 1867 a Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in the Centre, worshipping in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. This church continued to hold services and receive ministers appointed by the Conference for a few years, when it was merged in the Methodist Episcopal Church at Cherry Valley, the appointee of that church preaching at the Centre Sunday afternoons. The ministers have been Revs. Mr. Chase, Frederick M. Miller, L. P. Causey, Samuel F. Fuller, Eratus Burlingham and H. D. Weston.

Wesleyan Methodist Church.—After the separation in 1845, those who objected to the Episcopacy, and the position of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the subject of slavery and temperance, organized themselves into a Wesleyan Methodist Church, March 1, 1845. The pastor, Rev. Wm. C. Clark, remained with this church, and, indeed, was the active agent in securing its organization. His successors were Rev. Messrs. Christopher C. Mason, David Mason, Simeon E. Pike, J. A. Gibson, Thomas Williams and Benjamin N. Bullock.

The house of worship on Pleasant Street was dedicated July 15, 1846. The services were entirely suspended in 1861.

Roman Catholic Church.—The first Roman Catholic Church in town was St. Polycarp's, and was erected in 1854, half a mile east of Strawberry Hill. The corner-stone of the present church, St. Joseph's, was laid on the same site, September 1, 1867, Rev. Robert W. Brady, president of Holy Cross College, officiating. The church was dedicated January 2, 1870, Right Rev. John J. Williams, present Archbishop of Boston, officiating. The old church was taken down and moved to Rochdale during 1869, and was dedicated as St. Aloysius' Church. November 21st of the same year, Right Rev. John J. Williams officiating There was no resident pastor of the parish until August 1, 1880. The two churches were attended by the Jesuit Fathers from Holy Cross College, Worcester, in the following order: January, 1854, Rev. Peter Kroes; August, 1856, Rev. J. C. Moore, S. J.; August, 1857, Rev. P. M. Jolehi, S. J.; January, 1858, Rev. Eugene Veterneli; October, 1859, Rev. A. F. Ciampi, S. J.; August, 1861, Rev. J. B. Gafney, S. J.; January, 1864, Rev. J. B. O'Hagan, S. J.; August, 1864, Rev. Charles Kelly, S. J.; August, 1867, Rev. P. V. McDermott, S. J.; June, 1869, Rev. J. B. O'Hagan, S. J.; September, 1870, Rev. A. J. Ciampi, S. J.; January, 1871, Rev. Albert Peters, S. J.; August, 1872, Rev. W. F. Hamilton, S. J.; August, 1873, Rev. P. J. Blenkinsop, S. J. These clergymen were generally educated in Europe, as they were Jesuit Fathers and professors at the college. Some of them were men of eminent scholarship.

Rev. D. F. McGrath became the priest of the parish August 1, 1880. He was born in Milford, Mass., August 15, 1848; graduated from Holy Cross College in 1870, and from Grand Seminary, in Montreal, in 1873. When he came to the parish it was incumbered with a debt of six thousand five hundred dollars, which was increased to fourteen thousand five hundred dollars in remodeling and repairing the church, building a fine parsonage and by accompanying expenses. This was the amount of indebtedness January 1, 1884. By February 1, 1888, this debt was entirely paid, and all the parish property, including eighteen acres of land, is held free of indebtedness.

According to a census taken in January, 1888, by Father McGrath and his assistant, Father Kenney, there were in town three hundred and twelve Roman Catholic families, with a total of one thousand five hundred and thirty-six persons attached to St. Joseph's and St. Aloysius' Parishes.

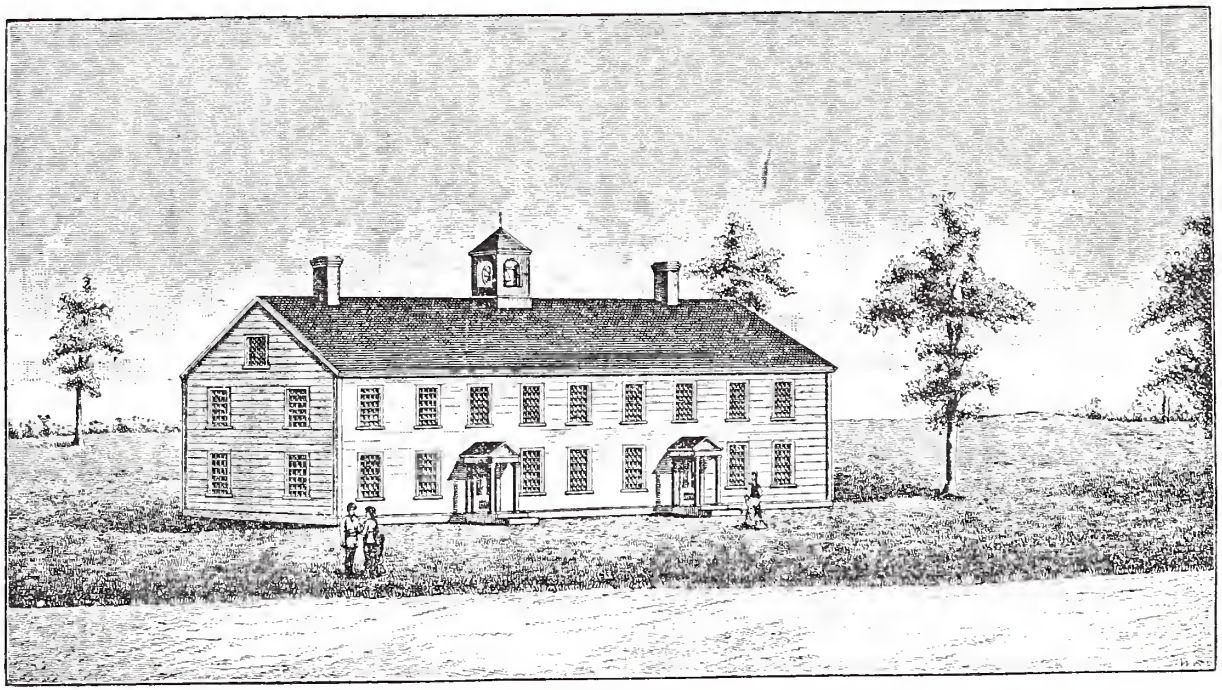
St. Thomas Church.—In the year 1873 the Rev. B. F. Cooley, rector of Christ Church, Rochdale, commenced service in the Methodist Church in Cherry Valley, on Sunday afternoons. These services were continued for several years by him and his successor, Rev. S. R. Bailey. The first service and also later services on week-days were held in the house of Mr. Cheney Barton, in which the Rev. H. Blackaller had held similar services more than thirty-five years before. The church was afterward made a mission of St. Matthew's Church, Worcester, which relation it still holds, although it has been self-supporting since 1886.

Rev. E. Osgood took charge, probably in the autumn of 1878, and continued until early in the year 1881. The Rev. Julius Waterberry was in charge from 1881 to 1882. He was a beautiful singer, a man of culture, of wide information, and pleasing and refined manners. He died in Boston, on Good Friday, 1882, and his memory is cherished with affection by the members of his charge. It was while he was connected with the church that "Shamrock Hall" began to be used as the place of worship.

He was succeeded by Rev. H. Hague, the present incumbent, who assumed charge on the first Sunday of August, 1882.

The church was built in 1884, and consecrated February 14, 1885, by Bishop W. R. Huntington, D.D., of Grace Church, New York. Since that time a pipe-organ has been placed in the church. The church contains five memorial windows, one of them in memory of Rev. Julius H. Waterberry.

The mission was first named "The House of Prayer," but in 1884 it was changed to "St. Thomas' Church."



THE LOPEZ HOUSE,

FIRST ACADEMY BUILDING, 1784–1806.

CHAPTER V.

LEICESTER—(*Continued.*)

SCHOOLS.

First Town Action—Schoolmasters—School-houses—Town Fined—District System—Amount Raised for Schools—Districts Abolished—High School—Leicester Academy—Founding—Buildings—Teachers—Funds—Military—Reorganization—Centennial Anniversary.

ALTHOUGH in the original legislative title of the town provision was made for school-houses, no action appears to have been taken upon the subject till the last day of the year 1731. It was then voted "to choose a committee of three to provide a schoolmaster; and that the said committee agree with a man to keep school for three months, and no longer; and that the school be kept in three parts of the town, so as may be most for the convenience of the inhabitants' children going to school." The sum of $8.75 was appropriated to meet the expense. He was to teach the children to "reed and wright." His own education, such as it was, must have been acquired without much help from teachers, as he probably came to town where there were no schools, when less than ten years of age. This provision was for the whole of Leicester and Spencer. The next year there was no school, and the town was called to account before the Quarter Sessions. The sum of $17.50 was appropriated the next winter, and after a delay of nearly a year, the same teacher was employed, and taught three months at $3.75 per month in the house of Mr. Jonathan Sargent, opposite the spot where the Catholic Church now stands. The next winter Mr. Lynde taught in three different places, one month in each place. "If the town employed him any more, they was to come to new farms."

In 1736 the town "voted to build a school-house sixteen feet in width, twenty feet in length and six and a half feet between joynts; and that it be set in the north side of the meeting-house, about ten rods, in the most convenientest place." It is described by one who remembered it as "an old shell of a building."

The next school-house was built as early as 1772, where Sargent's brick factory now stands. Another school-house in the centre was built in 1791.

In 1736 the town was again presented before the Quarter Sessions for failing to provide a school, and fined £4 12*s*. The next year John Lynde taught school one month and Joshua Nichols ten days. The school-house was probably built in 1738. Its cost was $4 7/8 4. Mr. Samuel Coolidge taught the school in 1739 six months, at $1.32 per week. In 1742 the school was taught by John Gibbons through the year, in the four quarters of the town, "so as to have the remote ends of the town have some benefit of the same." In 1742 it was taught in six places by Mr. Adam Bullard. The amount expended for schools the next twenty years was on an average $133.33 per year. In 1765 the town voted to raise £120 to build five school-houses in the East, Southeast, Northwest, and Northeast Districts.

The school-houses were all completed in 1767. The amount assessed in each district was finally appropriated to its own school-house. This was the beginning of the "district system" in town, which continued until April, 1869, when it was annulled in accordance with the statute of the State.

"Schooling mistresses" were first employed in 1766. In 1774 the number of districts was increased to nine, and on April 15, 1776, the nine districts were officially defined, and the different families assigned to their respective districts, and thus recorded. Notwithstanding the heavy burdens of the Revolutionary War, when a proposition was made in town-meeting to suspend the schools, it was promptly voted down.

A "town" or high school was organized in 1856, of which Mr. C. S. Knight was the first teacher. For several years it was migratory, being held one term each year at the Centre Village, Clappville and Cherry Valley. It was permanently located at the Centre in 1859. In 1867 an arrangement was made by which it was combined with the Academy, and this union has been continued to the present time, with the exception of four years, during which the Academy was temporarily suspended. All the advantages of that institution are now open to the children of the town who are qualified to enter upon a high school course.

The annual amount raised by the town for schools at the close of the last century was $300. In 1850 it was $1,200. The appropriation for 1888 was $7,500.

LEICESTER ACADEMY.—Leicester Academy had its origin in the intelligent forethought and unselfish enterprise of its founders, Col. Ebenezer Crafts, of Sturbridge, and Col. Jacob Davis, of Charlton. They were public-spirited, patriotic men. They clearly saw that Christian education was essential to the success and perpetuity of those free institutions which had been won at such a cost. There was no academy in Central or Western Massachusetts, and the provision for general education was exceedingly meagre. Col. Crafts was a liberally educated man, graduated from Yale College in 1759. He was an ardent patriot, and marched to Cambridge at the first call to arms, with a company of cavalry which he had already organized. He also commanded a company of one hundred men under Gen. Lincoln, for the suppression of the Shays' Rebellion. After the close of the war he appears first to have conceived the idea of establishing in Worcester County a school for classical and English education. He interested in the undertaking Col. Davis, who had also been a soldier in the Revolution, and was a man of wealth and broad public spirit.

While they were considering the matter circumstances directed their attention to Leicester as a desirable location for such an institution. Upon the departure of the Jews, the store of Mr. Lopez, with

the land, was advertised for sale at auction as "a large, commodious double mansion, and a noted place for trade." There was one acre of land. It was, as nearly as can be ascertained, upon the original lot No. 1. It had been successively owned by John Stebbins, Rev. Joseph Roberts, Rev. Benjamin Conklin; the western half by Benjamin Fosgate, who built on it a small store about the year 1770; by Joseph Allen and Henry Bass. In 1777 Mr. Lopez added to the western half-acre a half-acre purchased of Mr. Conklin, and built upon it "the splendid mansion" now offered for sale.

Col. Crafts, watchful for opportunities to carry out his purpose, was at the sale. While there he conferred with his associates and decided to make the purchase, and the place was "bid off" to them for £515. It was deeded May 7, 1783, to Col. Crafts, Col. Davis and Asa Sprague, of Spencer, who soon afterward transferred his interest to Col. Crafts. Col. Crafts then addressed a petition to the Legislature for an act of incorporation, stating that a "large and commodious building, with about one acre of land," had been secured "with intent and design to promote the public benefit in the education of youth, as said buildings are exceedingly well calculated for an academy." He asked for an act similar to that relating to Andover, "whereby the same may be made respectable; whereby the advantages of education of youth may be promoted; whereby advantages may arise not only to the individuals, but to the public in general, and prove a blessing to our land of liberty."

The petition appropriately bears date of July 4, 1783. The petition was presented to the Legislature by Col. Seth Washburn, February 7, 1784. Final action was deferred until the sum of £1000 should be raised for the academy in addition to the real estate. There were then only one hundred and fifty families in town, and a population of about a thousand. They were impoverished by the war, but they came to the rescue in a spirit of noble generosity; and within seven weeks more than the required amount was raised, as stated in the *Spy*, "by the town of Leicester, and a few gentlemen of that and this place." The town appropriated £500; citizens of Leicester contributed £367; and the amount was raised by Judge Gill, of Princeton, and others to £1355. The act of incorporation was passed March 23, 1784. It was signed by John Hancock, Governor, and Samuel Adams, President of the Senate.[1] The property was deeded to the trustees in May, 1784.

In May the trustees made provision for subscriptions through the selectmen of the several towns of the county for the institution. It "is devoutly hoped," they say, "that it will not be suffered to wither and decay, or, for want of nourishment, to be removed to some more fertile soil." Clergymen were also appealed to, and Rev. Joseph Buckingham, in his Thanksgiving Sermon that year, made an appeal for aid. Isaiah Thomas interested himself at once in the movement, and in November the *Spy* stated that "there would soon be opened at Leicester an Academy, for the purpose of promoting the sciences, &c.," and "the people of this large county" were "urged to exert themselves to second the endeavors of those gentlemen who have laid this generous and laudable plan of another channel for public education."

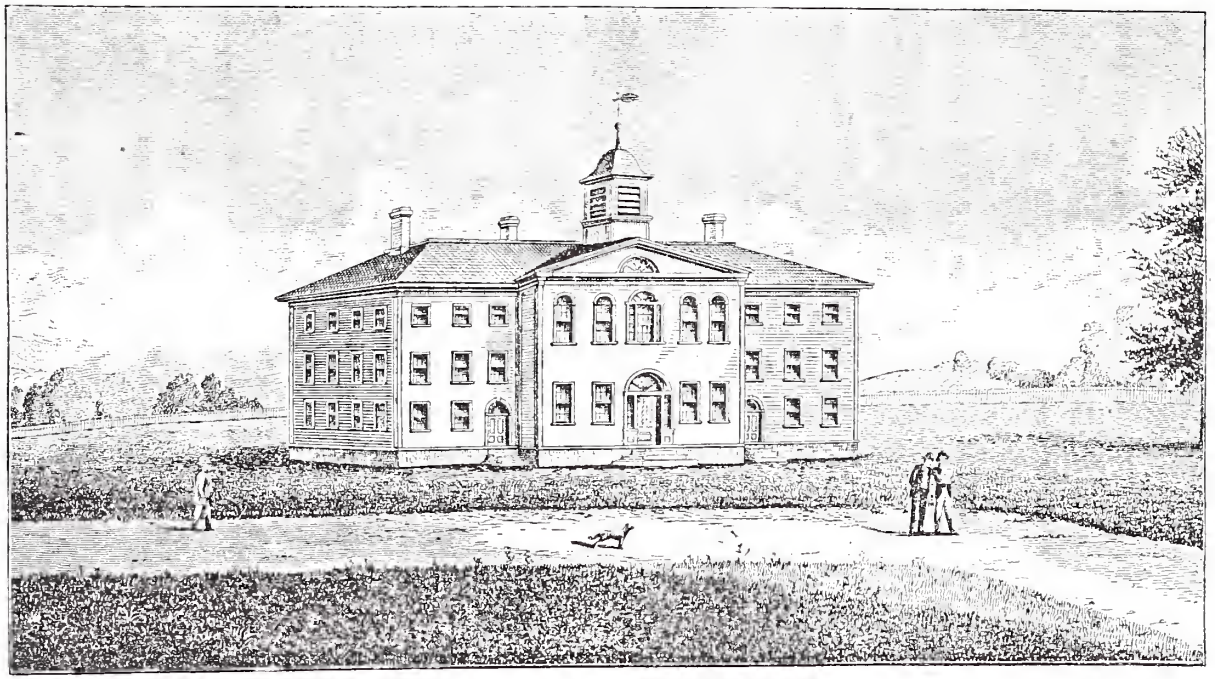
Dr. John Pierce, who came as assistant preceptor in 1793, describes this "mansion" as "an oblong, barrack-looking building." The rooms were about seven and a half feet in height. The southwest "parlor" was the school-room of the principal preceptor, and the southeast that of the English preceptor. The central front room was used as a dining and rhetorical hall, while the three rooms in the rear were used by the stewards. The southwest chamber was occupied by the two preceptors, who sometimes took a visiting friend as a third occupant of their bed. The other chambers were for students, who were at times crowded six and even eight in a room. There was on the roof a small cupola, with a bell, the gift of Mr. Thomas Stickney.

The meeting-house stood west of the academy. In the rear were the grave-yard and the training-field.

The first meeting of the trustees was held April 7, 1784. They moved in a body to the meeting-house, where public services were held. The Rev. Mr. Conklin preached a sermon from Proverbs 11 : 25, and the Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty offered prayer. The trustees then partook of an "elegant repast," in "Commons Hall." Hon. Moses Gill, of Princeton, was elected president, Rev. Benjamin Conklin vice-president, Rev. Joseph Pope (of Spencer) secretary, Joseph Allen, Esq., treasurer, and Colonel Crafts "steward and butler." Committees were chosen to select teachers, and prepare to open the school "with all convenient speed."

Benjamin Stone, a native of Shrewsbury, a graduate of Harvard in 1776, was engaged as principal preceptor, at a salary of sixty pounds a year, afterwards raised to eighty-five pounds. He left in 1787, and was afterward preceptor of Westford Academy. He died in Shrewsbury in 1832, at the age of seventy-six. He was a well-qualified and faithful teacher, and always retained a deep interest in the academy. The school opened with three pupils,—Samuel C. Crafts, son of the founder; Ephraim Allen, of Sturbridge; and Samuel Swan, of Leicester, then six years of age. They were all graduated afterward at Harvard College. Mr. Crafts removed to Vermont, was a member of the first Constitutional Convention of that State, chief justice of the County Court, Representative and Senator to Congress and Governor of the State.

Mr. Allen became an eminent physician in Salem, N. Y., and Mr. Swan was established as a lawyer in Hubbardston. He was a valuable friend of the in-



SECOND ACADEMY BUILDING, 1806–1832.

stitution, and a contributor to its funds. Eli Whitney, of Westboro', inventor of the cotton-gin, entered the school soon after. Such was the quality of the first pupils in Leicester Academy.

The number rose to twenty before the close of the term. In the autumn term Thomas Payson was engaged as English preceptor, and the number of pupils was between seventy and eighty.

At the time of the next annual meeting of the trustees, July 4, 1785, "the youth of that seminary entertained a large and respectable audience with specimens of their literary improvements." Dramatic entertainments continued for many years to be given by the school, sometimes occupying the morning, afternoon and evening. They were held in the meeting-house, which was crowded to its fullest capacity, the people coming from all the surrounding towns. On one of these occasions a Congregational minister of the county played, behind the scenes, the bass viol accompaniment to the "Scolding Wife." "Colloquy," "Poem," "Dialogue," "Greek Oration," "Farce," "Greek Dialogue," "Comedy," the entire (Addison's) "Tragedy of Cato," "Latin Dialogue," "Description of a Mighty Good Man" and "Description of a Mighty Good Woman" are among the parts which appear on the programmes of these entertainments.

The exhibitions, from time to time, were subjects of action by the trustees, in the way of provision and limitation. In 1796 provision was made for examination by the trustees. In 1840 the custom was introduced of inviting some former member of the institution to deliver an address in connection with the anniversary exercises. A statement of Dr. Pierce illustrates the style and dignity of the instructors. "According to the custom of the times, I then wore a cocked, or three-cornered hat. My hair was queued with a ribbon half-way down my back. I had silver knee-buckles at my knees; my plated shoe-buckles covered more than half my insteps."

The range of studies was very varied. Students were fitted for college, while in the English department the lowest common branches were taught. Dr. James Jackson, English preceptor in 1796, says, "I believe all my pupils had learned the alphabet before I saw them. I taught spelling, reading, writing, English grammar and arithmetic, and perhaps, to a few of the pupils, some of the higher branches." The charge for tuition was one shilling per week for the classics, and nine pence for English branches.

The institution soon found itself embarrassed in its finances. The currency was depreciated. The Shays' Rebellion "threatened the country with civil war. The income of the funds was so reduced that it was necessary to dispense with the services of the principal preceptor. The "large and elegant house" soon proved inadequate and uncomfortable, and came to be looked upon, in the words of an early teacher, as "the old, rickety, inconvenient Jewish house," of which the seats were "old and crowded," and which was heated by an "old-fashioned box-stove," so that "teachers and students" were "infested and inflated with steam and smoke." Measures were taken as early as 1786 to rebuild, but there were no means, and the institution was forty pounds in debt. It was a gloomy period in the history of the infant academy. In the general depression the school had become greatly reduced in numbers. In this emergency the town again showed its intelligent appreciation of the value of the institution, and, notwithstanding the embarrassed condition of its own resources, appropriated fifty pounds toward the salary of the preceptor, who received, in addition, the amount of tuitions.

The trustees had already appealed to the churches for funds; they now turned to another source. It was at a time before moralists and Christian men had come to understand the true character and demoralizing tendency of the lottery system. The trustees obtained permission of the Legislature, and issued a lottery "for the repairing Leicester Academy and making additional buildings thereto."

The public were urged to purchase tickets on the ground that "the Academy at Leicester is established for promoting piety and virtue, and for the education of youths, etc." Rev. Mr. Conklin was one of a committee to ask the General Court for an extension of time and an increase of the amount from £600 to £1200; $1419.22 was thus raised for the academy. In 1792 the Legislature made a grant of a town in Maine to the academy, which, in a few years, added $9,200 to the funds of the institution. With the adoption of the Federal Constitution confidence and prosperity returned to the country, and the academy felt the reaction. In 1804 the funds had increased to $16,703.68.

After long delay and various changes of plan, the new building was begun in 1805. A half-acre of land east of the original lot had the year before been purchased of Mr. Dall, of Boston, for seven hundred dollars. Still further addition of land was made by gift and later by purchase of Dr. Austin Flint. The architect of the new building was Rand White, of Leicester, who received as remuneration $9.84.

The corner-stone was laid on the 14th of May with much ceremony. A procession, consisting of "Artificers," the corner-stone drawn by seventeen horses, a band of music, the president of the board, the building committee, and trustees, magistrates, selectmen of Leicester, citizens and students of the academy moved through the streets to the place, the stone was laid by the master-builder and the object of the structure was stated by the president, who offered prayer.

The procession then passed into the meeting-house, where there were further exercises. The building was ready for occupancy in January, 1806. It was of three stories, with a cupola. It was dedicated on the 4th of July, 1806. Again a procession was formed on the Common, consisting of the band, students, preceptors and trustees, and moved from the old to the

new building, where the structure was received by the board, and the president, Dr. Sumner, delivered an address. At the church, whither the procession passed, prayer was offered by Dr. Sumner, and Dr. Aaron Bancroft delivered an address on the "Importance of Education." On both of the occasions described, Dr. Sumner, with great white wig and triangular cocked hat, was a conspicuous figure. The cost of the building was $9,054.36. It was built by the "job" in a very unsatisfactory manner. The foundations were not sufficiently firm and "settled," causing the building to be "racked and injured." It was hastily and unskillfully covered and finished, so that "the winds and storms of heaven" had free access. The subsequent expense and labor of repairs were fruitless, and after twenty-six years it gave place to the present structure.

Apparatus for the illustration of the sciences had already been purchased, consisting of globes, a telescope, microscope, electric machine, thermometer and surveying instruments.

It was at first understood that the principal was responsible for the management of the school, but it is evident that the two departments soon became quite distinct. Dr. James Jackson, who was English preceptor in 1796 and 1797, says, "The schools were conducted quite independently of each other," and that he believed that the principal "had no right to control 'him.' Certainly, he never did." In 1821, however, the trustees, to prevent all misunderstanding, declared the principal preceptor the authoritative head of both departments. The English teacher presided over his own school-room, with power to punish. One of the penalties was the imposition of fines; this, however, was, by vote of the trustees in 1834, prohibited, and at the same time expulsion was made subject to the approval of a committee of the trustees. For many years corporal punishment was resorted to in cases of discipline, and there are still traditions of severe inflictions and even of struggles in the school-room, and of guilty boys, in thoughtful mood and with sad apprehensions, accompanying the principal from the academy to the gloomy seclusion of his own barn.

The funds of the academy after the erection of the second school building in 1806 amounted to $8,992.21. In 1814 Captain Thomas Newhall left a legacy of $1,000, and $1,000 additional for the tuition of pupils in town residing over a mile from the academy. Small sums were afterward subscribed at different times, and the State gave land in Paxton, which had been held by an alien, and had "escheated" to the Commonwealth, which was sold for $400.

In 1823 "sundry individuals in the town of Leicester, procured by subscription a philosophical apparatus, and presented it to the academy, cost over $500." That year the academy received its first considerable legacy. Captain Israel Waters, of Charlton, "was," in the language of Governor Washburn, "the architect of his own fortune." He was born in Sutton. A poor boy, he pressed his way to wealth by his own industry, enterprise and determination. His business was the manufacture of leather, in the northerly part of Charlton. He made the academy his residuary legatee, and established the Waters Fund, "for the purpose of supporting an instructor, or instructors, of the Congregational Calvinistic order" "in the town of Leicester forever." The will provided, in case of the removal of the school from town, that the trustees in town should take the fund and use the interest for maintaining a public school, called the Waters School or Academy. If the time should come when there would be no such trustees, the selectmen were to fulfill the trust. The amount received from this estate was something over $8,000.

In 1831 the academy received $4,686.36 and also the avails of certain lands in Maine and Vermont from the estate of Hon. Isaiah Thomas, the distinguished Revolutionary patriot, original publisher of the Worcester *Spy*, and founder of the American Antiquarian Society; and the same year $250 by the will of Hon. Nathaniel Maccarty, of Worcester. In 1832 the value of the funds was $21,970.67. The building of the new academy in 1834, with the other expenses, reduced the amount, so that in 1844 it was only $13,611.72. The next year Hon. Daniel Waldo, of Worcester, for seventeen years a valuable member of the board of trustees, left the academy the sum of $6,000, to constitute the Waldo Fund, the interest of which was to be used for the "payment for able instruction in the various branches of knowledge, etc.'

It is, however, to James Smith, Esq., of Philadelphia, that the institution is most largely indebted for its endowment. He was born in Rutland, January 20, 1788, came to Leicester in 1810 a pale-faced, poor boy, all his worldly goods tied in a pocket handkerchief. First a clerk in the store of Colonel Thomas Denny, whose daughter Maria he married in 1815, he became engaged in the manufacture of card clothing. The foundations of his wealth were laid in the period of the last war with England. In 1836 he removed to Philadelphia, where he continued the same business. Some years ago, addressing the students of the academy, he said: "I early in life formed this determination, that I would be useful." That resolve was the key-note of his life.

He helped many who were in straits. He took especial pleasure in aiding young students, especially those who were fitting themselves for Christian work. He gave during his life, and in his will, liberal donations to various literary institutions. In 1852 he gave to the academy $10,000, on condition that $5000 additional should be raised. The condition was complied with, Honorable Stephen Salisbury and Joseph A. Denny, Esq., contributing $1000 each, Thomas Denny, Esq., of New York, J. Wiley Edmands, of Newton, Ichabod Washburn, of Worcester, and John A. Smith subscribing $500 each, and other individ-

ual sums varying from $100 to $5 each. In 1877 he placed in the hands of the trustees $15,000, to be added to the amount already given, thus making the Smith Fund $25,000. This fund became available in 1879, after his death.

Benjamin Stone was principal of the academy from June, 1784, to October, 1787; Amos Crosby from October, 1787, to July, 1788. He was a native of Brookfield and graduated at Harvard in 1786; afterward a lawyer in Brookfield. He is described as "a man of great quickness and ready wit and with convivial tastes and habits" which developed into dissipation. Samuel Sumner, son of Dr. Sumner, of Shrewsbury, was principal from October, 1788, to July, 1790, a graduate of Dartmouth in 1786, afterward a clergyman. David Smith from July, 1790, to May, 1792; a native of Ipswich, graduated from Harvard 1790; afterward a clergyman. Ebenezer Adams, after teaching one year in the English department, was principal from May, 1792, to July, 1806; born in Ipswich in 1765, graduated from Dartmouth in 1791. He is represented as one of the ablest, most beloved and most successful of the early principals of the Academy. He passed with the institution through its gloomy period of depression, into the dawn of its returning prosperity, and did much to shape its future character. From July, 1806, to October, 1807, Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore discharged the duties of principal, while at the same time pastor of the church. Simeon Colton was principal from October, 1807, to February, 1809. Luther Willson from February, 1809, to August, 1812; born in New Braintree; graduated from Williams in 1807. Josiah Clark from March, 1812, to August, 1818; born in Northampton 1785; graduated from Williams in 1809; afterward pastor of the church in Rutland and many years a trustee. Bradford Sumner, one term, 1818 and 1819; graduated from Brown in 1808. John Richardson, from February, 1819, to August, 1833; born in Woburn, graduated from Harvard in 1813. He is remembered as a thorough disciplinarian, a good scholar and instructor. Luther Wright, from August, 1833, to August, 1839; born in East Hampton and graduated from Yale in 1822. He was a man of great vigor, a good scholar and effective teacher. Under his administration the school greatly increased in numbers. He was afterward principal of the Williston Academy, Easthampton.

In 1832 the second academy building was sold for four hundred dollars. The new building was erected on the site of the old. Mr. Elias Carter was the architect. It is of brick, three stories in height. It was one hundred and two feet in length, the centre forty-two feet by forty, and the wings thirty feet square. The east wing has in part been occupied by the principals and their families, and the west as a boarding-house. The upper rooms were for the associate preceptor and students. The building was completed and finished in the winter of 1833, and on the 25th of December was dedicated.

Addresses were made by Rev. George Allen on behalf of the trustees, and Mr. Luther Wright, the principal preceptor. The subject of Mr. Wright's address was "Education." It was published, together with a "Brief Sketch of the History of Leicester Academy," prepared under the direction of the building committee. The cost of the edifice was ten thousand dollars. Mr. Wright was principal for six years, with Mr. Joseph L. Partridge as assistant, and also Miss Elizabeth Holmes during the last four years. She was the first female teacher of the academy and held the position twelve years. During the period of Mr. Wright's administration the school greatly increased in numbers.

Joseph L. Partridge followed as principal from August, 1839, to November, 1845. In his time the number of pupils reached one hundred and seventy-five, which is believed to be the largest in its history. He was born in Hatfield in 1804 and graduated from Williams in 1828. He has been on the board of trustees for fourteen years, and, residing in Brooklyn, N. Y., is still, at the age of eighty-four, a regular attendant upon its meetings and an active and valuable member.

Josiah Clark, Jr., born in Leicester in 1814 and graduated from Yale in 1833, was principal from January, 1846, to January, 1849, when he became principal of Williston Seminary. The academy at this time held high rank as a fitting-school. "I am sure," says Hon. W. W. Rice of Mr. Clark, in his centennial address, "that he might have been the great master, but Leicester let him go." "He was an accomplished scholar, courteous in manner, but decided in principle, with a clear head, a large heart and a beautiful spirit."

The English department was also conducted with marked ability for ten years, from 1834, by Luther Haven. Burritt A. Smith was principal from July, 1849, to August, 1852.

From August, 1852, to June, 1860, Alvan Hyde Washburn was principal. He was a man of high character, excellent scholarship and refined taste. He afterward became an Episcopal clergyman. He was killed in the fearful railroad accident at Ashtabula, Ohio, December 29, 1876, not a vestige remaining to mark his identity.

After the large increase of funds in 1852, extensive alterations and improvements were made in the building, at a cost of about forty-two hundred dollars. The main building above the school-rooms was converted into a large and attractive audience-room, and named Smith Hall.

In this hall are hung portraits of benefactors and trustees of the institution. The re-dedication took place October 26, 1853. Hon. Thomas Kinnicutt spoke for the trustees, and Mr. Washburn, the principal, delivered an address upon "Old and New Methods," which was published.

The town in 1856 organized a high school under

the requirements of the State law, and other schools of the same nature were multiplied in the vicinity. As the number of pupils in the academy became reduced, the school was closed at the end of the summer term of 1860, and remained suspended till January, 1862, when it was re-opened, with ten pupils, under William B. Phillips, a graduate of Brown University in 1856. In April the term opened with forty pupils, and H. G. Merriam was engaged as teacher in the English department.

Mr. Phillips left at the end of the year, and John Avery had charge of the school one term. He was born in Conway, and graduated from Amherst in 1861. He was an eminent linguist, Oriental scholar and author, and afterward was professor in Iowa College and Bowdoin College.

Henry G. Merriam, after teaching in the English department a year, was made principal in May, 1863, and resigned June, 1865. He was graduated from Brown University in 1857. In 1862 the boys of the school were organized into a military company, and afterward into a battalion. Mr. Merriam, a thorough disciplinarian and teacher, conducted the school with ability and energy, and under his administration the numbers increased to about one hundred, and all the rooms for students were crowded. It was in the time of the war, and the military training met a popular need. Company, battalion and skirmish drill became important features in the daily exercise of the pupils and prominent attractions in the public examinations. The effect of this training appeared in the erect bearing and grace of the "Leicester Cadets." They were received with favor when they appeared in Worcester on parade and drill. The government, on recommendation of the academy, readily gave commissions to a number of young men, and they went immediately into active service. In 1863 a proposition to make the school a State military academy was taken into consideration; and on the 2d day of August a State Commission visited the school, and expressed much gratification with the proficiency of the military training. The Hon. Edward Everett was chairman of the commission, and addressed the pupils in his peculiarly felicitous and eloquent manner.

George W. Waite, of the class of 1861 at Amherst, was principal from August, 1865, to April, 1867, and Wm. C. Peckham, class of 1867, Amherst, from June, 1867, to June, 1868. Darius P. Sackett, a graduate of Yale 1866, was principal preceptor from August, 1868, to March, 1871. His administration raised the school to a high rank in discipline, scholarship and general character, not far surpassed in the previous history of the academy. He is now principal of the Sackett School, in Oakland, Cal. Charles A. Wetmore succeeded him, in March, 1871. He was born in Norwich, N. Y., November 8, 1843, and graduated from Hamilton College in 1869. He was an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher, entirely devoted to his work, although a great sufferer from asthma the last year of his life. In the summer of 1874 he went to Jefferson, N. H., for his health, where he died suddenly July 6th. James O. Averill, of the class of 1870, at Amherst, was principal one year, from August, 1874, and D. Newton Putney, three years, from August, 1875.

In 1867 the meeting-house of the First Church was purchased and removed to its present position, in the rear of the academy. The upper part was converted into rooms for students and the lower into a gymnasium.

In the summer of 1878 the school was again suspended, in order that the funds might accumulate sufficiently to warrant extensive repairs and better provisions for its work. These improvements were made at a cost of six thousand one hundred dollars. The school-rooms were finished in ash; the laboratory was reconstructed and fitted for practical use for students in chemistry and zöology; and a new, convenient and attractive hall was finished in the east wing for cabinets and the department of physics. It is named "Murdock Hall," in honor of Mr. Joseph Murdock, at whose expense the work was done, and who has furnished it with a telescope, sets of globes, charts and other facilities and adornments. He has also refinished the gymnasium.

In 1887 Dr. Pliny Earle presented to the academy his valuable cabinet of shells and minerals, collected in connection with his extensive travels in various parts of the earth. It contains probably over twelve thousand specimens, many of them rare and beautiful. He also provided an appropriate case, and endowed the cabinet with a fund of one thousand dollars.

In 1888 Mr. J. Bradford Sargent, of Leicester, fitted a room in the tower of the gymnasium as a weather station, and furnished it at large expense with a set of meteorological instruments, which for delicacy and beauty are supposed not to be equaled.

In the fall of 1882 the academy was reopened with Mr. Caleb A. Page, a native of Burlington, Me., a graduate of Bowdoin College, in 1870, as principal. He still retains the position. The school is organized in three departments: The classical and scientific four years' courses, and the three years' business course. The number of pupils has been about eighty. Since the reorganization many members have been prepared for different colleges, and for normal and technical schools; while others have gone from the business department into eligible mechanical and mercantile situations.

The centennial anniversary of the academy was celebrated September 4, 1884. A large number of the former members of the institution assembled in the morning at the academy building—among them Edmund J. Mills, of Sutton, a pupil in 1803, and then in the ninety-fifth year of his age. An address of welcome was given by Rev. A. H. Coolidge, the

president of the board of trustees. An historical address was given by Hon. W. W. Rice, and a poem by Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D. The company, to the number of seven hundred, then took dinner in a Yale tent on the Common. Rev. A. Huntington Clapp, D.D., presided in a very felicitous manner. Among the addresses were those of Lieutenant-Governor Oliver Ames, A. L. Patridge, Esq., Dr. Thomas Hill, Prof. F. A. March, Judge Asa D. French, John E. Russell, Esq., Colonel Homer B. Sprague, Rev. M. B. Angier, Rev. A. C. Dennison, Rev. J. L. Jenkins, Judge C. C. Estey, Mr. Wm. B. Earle and Rev. Samuel May. Dr. Pliny Earle read a short original poem, as did also Captain J. Waldo Denny and Rev. A. C. Dennison. The occasion was one of rare interest and pleasure. In the evening there was a delightful reunion in the academy. An Association of the Alumni of Leicester Academy was organized, of which Hon. Oliver Ames, now Governor of Massachusetts, was made president. The association has since then held an annual reunion at the Leicester Hotel, in June.

The academy has numbered among its trustees such men as Hon. Moses Gill, Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts; Colonel Rufus Putnam, one of the founders of the North West Territory; Hon. Levi Lincoln, Attorney-General, United States; Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty, pastor of the Old South Church, Worcester; Hon. Dwight Foster, United States Senator; Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D.D., pastor of the Second Congregational Church, Worcester; Hon. Nathaniel Paine, Hon. Aaron Tufts, Hon. Daniel Waldo, Samuel M. Burnside, Esq., Hon. Levi Lincoln, Governor of Massachusetts; Hon. Abijah Bigelow, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, Hon. Samuel Mixter, Ichabod Washburn, Rev. Seth Sweetser, D.D., Hon. George F. Hoar, United States Senator; Hon. A. D. Foster, Rev. Horatio Bardwell, D.D., Judge Henry Chapin, Rev. Samuel May, and many other prominent men of Leicester, together with former teachers and pupils of the academy elsewhere mentioned. Many of the teachers of the academy afterward became distinguished in other positions. Among these are Rev. John Pierce, D.D., for fifty-two years pastor of the church in Brookline; Theodore Dehon, D.D., Bishop of South Carolina; Dr. James Jackson, for many years at the head of the medical profession in Boston; Dr. John Dixwell and Dr. George Shattuck, also eminent physicians in Boston; Hon. Timothy Fuller, father of Margaret Fuller, Representative in Congress; Rev. John N. Putnam, the learned Professor of Greek in Dartmouth College; Prof. Francis A. March, of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania; William F. Poole, the eminent librarian, author of "Poole's Index" and "Index of Periodicals"; Hon. W. W. Rice, for ten years member of the national House of Representatives.

Only a few of the many pupils of the academy who have become distinguished can be mentioned: Hon. Samuel C. Crafts, representative and Senator in Congress and Governor of Vermont; Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton-gin; Hon. William L. Marcy, Secretary of State, United States; Hon. William Upham, United States Senator from Vermont; Rev. Gardiner Spring, D. D., New York; Hon. John Davis, United States Senator and Governor of Massachusetts; Hon. Ebenezer Lane, Chief Justice of Ohio; Colonel Thomas Aspinwall, United States consul at London; Hon. David Henshaw, Secretary of the Navy; Rev. George Allen; Hon. Charles Allen, Representative in Congress and judge; Dr. Levi Hedge, professor in Harvard College; Hon. Emery Washburn, Governor of Massachusetts; Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., president of Harvard University from 1862–68; Charles C. and Isaac T. Burr, merchants in Boston; Hon. Pliny Merrick and Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, judges of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts; Rev. A. H. Clapp, D.D., Judge Asa D. French, Hon. Oliver Ames, Governor of Massachusetts; Hon. Edward F. Jones, Colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment and Lieutenant-Governor of New York.

CHAPTER VI.

LEICESTER—(*Continued.*)

BUSINESS.

Card Business—Woolen Manufacture—Boot and Shoe Business—Tanning and Currying Business—Leicester National and Savings Banks—Miscellaneous Industries.

Card Business.—Leicester for many years continued to be a purely agricultural community, the people dependent for a living upon the products of their farms. In the latter part of the last century the industry was introduced which became the distinctive business of the town, and for a long time the principal source of its prosperity and wealth.

In this enterprise Mr. Edmond Snow was the pioneer. He began the manufacture of hand-cards in 1785.

Pliny Earle commenced the same business in 1786. In 1789 we find him receiving an order for card clothing from Almy & Brown, of Providence, R. I., and with it a reference to the fact that he had already covered carding machines in Worcester.

Soon after this Samuel Slater came to this country, and the next year, under the auspices of Almy & Brown, began the manufacture of cotton goods by machinery moved by water-power; and Mr. Earle supplied him with the cards by which the cotton was prepared, which was first spun in this way in the United States. Hitherto, cards had been made in "plain" form, but the tilleting for Mr. Slater was set diagonally or "twilled." The sheets were of calf-skin. The holes were pricked by hand, with two needles fastened into a handle. The teeth were cut and bent by machinery and set by hand. The statement that one hundred thousand holes were thus pricked probably falls below the fact. About the year 1797 Mr. Earle

invented a machine for pricking "twilled" cards, for which, in 1803, he secured a patent. It was based upon a principle previously unrecognized in American card machinery, which was not only involved in all subsequent pricking-machines, but is continued in Mr. Whittemore's machine for pricking and setting—that wonderful mechanism the credit for inventing which is so largely due to Eleazer Smith, and of which John Randolph, speaking on the extension of its patent, said, "Yes, I would renew it to all eternity, for it is the only machine which has a soul." In 1791 Mr. Earle associated with himself his brothers Jonah and Silas, in the firm of Pliny Earle & Brothers. They were probably for some years the largest manufacturers of card-clothing in the country. From their factory at Mulberry Grove, hand-cards were taken by horse-teams even to Charleston, S. C. They manufactured machines for carding both cotton and wool, and also had wool-carding mills in several towns in Worcester County and Rhode Island, for the convenience of the farmers. Pliny Earle died in 1832, and the business was conducted in his name till 1849 by his son, William B. Earle, who had had charge of it from the year 1819. He devoted much of his skill to the improvement of the card-setting machine, and as an expert in that machinery is said to have had no superior. In 1837 he received of the Massachusetts Charitable Society in Boston, a silver medal for one of his machines.

Silas Earle withdrew from the firm and carried on the business independently, at the Marshall house, on Marshall Street, from about 1806 till the time of his death, in 1842. His machines were bought by Timothy K. Earle, who then commenced the business, but soon removed to Worcester.

Daniel Denny in 1792 made hand-cards in Cherry Valley, in the house that stands between Main and Willow Streets, above Kettle Brook.

Woodcock & Knight.—Winthrop Earle began the machine-card business in 1802, in a building in the rear of Col. Thomas Denny's factory, which stood east of the Leicester Hotel. He died in 1807, and John Woodcock continued the business in connection with the widow until her marriage to Alpheus Smith, 1808, when Mr. Smith assumed her share. Mr. Woodcock invented the machine for splitting leather to a uniform thickness. In 1811 the factory was moved west of the hotel, and the next year was enlarged by Mr. Woodcock. In 1812 James Smith joined the company, which took the name of Woodcock & Smith. Mr. Woodcock retired in 1813, and the next year John A. and Rufus Smith took his place, forming the firm of James & John A. Smith & Co. Rufus Smith died in 1818. In 1825, October 18th, John Woodcock, Hiram Knight and Emory Drury became partners. In 1827 and 1828 they built the Brick Factory. Mr. Drury left the firm in 1829, and continued to manufacture cards on Pleasant Street, a mile from the village. In 1836 they added to their business the manufacture of card clothing in Philadelphia, with George W. Morse as a partner, and continued it for about ten years, as the firm of James Smith & Co., while carrying on business in Leicester as Smith, Woodcock & Knight. Woodcock & Knight removed to the Central Factory, north of the Church, in 1846. In 1848 T. E. Woodcock and Dexter Knight, sons of the senior members, were admitted to the firm, which took the title of Woodcock, Knight & Co. In 1867 the fathers disposed of their interests to their sons T. E. Woodcock, Dexter, George M. and James J. Knight. They dissolved in 1881 and sold the building and machinery to the Card-Clothing Association. The factory was much enlarged and improved in 1866.

Capt. Isaac Southgate and Col. Henry Sargent, both of them enterprising and public spirited citizens of Leicester, began the manufacture of machine-cards in 1810, as the firm of Southgate & Sargent, in Colonel Thos. Denny's house. Col. Sargent withdrew in 1812 and was in the same business till his death in 1829, his brother, Col. Joseph D., being with him from 1814 to 1819. Capt. Southgate, in 1826, associated with himself Joshua Lamb, Dwight Bisco, Joseph A. Denny and John Stone, as the firm of Isaac Southgate & Co., manufacturing machine-cards in the building west of the hotel. Mr. Stone died in 1827, Mr. Lamb retired in 1831 and Capt. Southgate in 1843, when the name was changed to Bisco & Denny. In 1828 they built the Central Factory and in 1845 the present factory of Bisco & Denny. In 1857 Charles A. Denny and George Bisco joined the firm. Jos. A. Denny died in 1875 and Dwight Bisco in 1882, when John W. Bisco joined the firm. In 1857 a branch establishment was opened at Manchester, N. H. Their factory was enlarged and remodeled in 1883.

Colonel Joseph D. Sargent first made hand-cards at his home, on the road from Cherry Valley to Auburn, beyond Denny Hill. After separating from his brother in 1819, he continued to manufacture hand cards at the Brick Factory till his death, in 1849, but sold the other part of the business to Lamb & White, in 1836. Silas Jones, Nathan Ainsworth and William Boggs were at different times his partners.

Josiah Q. Lamb and Alonzo White manufactured machine-cards in Sargent's Brick Factory from 1836 to 1846, when Mr. Lamb retired from the firm, but made cards at the same place until his death, in 1850. Christopher C. Denny became associated with Mr. White in 1846, in the firm of White & Denny, who carried on business in the factory of H. A. Denny, which in 1854 they purchased of Henry A. Denny & Sons. In 1868 Mr. Denny disposed of his interest to H. Arthur White, and the firm of White & Son continued business till 1888, when, H. A. White having purchased the interest of the father, the concern was consolidated with the "Decker & Bonitz Card Clothing Company," incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts, which also carries on an extensive business in Philadelphia.[1] Mr. White assumed the management of the Leicester branch. This corporation purchased the Central Factory, which they enlarged and

[1] See Appendix.



Lucius Moderson

renovated, and added new buildings for the accommodation of their new power-plant, and the grinding of cards under patents owned by the corporation, and for additional facilities for their increasing business.

The firm of *J. & J. Murdock* had its origin in 1840, in that of Southgate & Murdock, composed of Samuel Southgate, Jr., and Joshua Murdoek, Jr. Mr. Southgate retired in 1844, and Mr. Murdock continued the business alone until 1848, when his brother Joseph joined him, and the firm-name of J. & J. Murdoek was adopted, which is still used. In 1858, John N. Murdoek came into the firm. In March, 1883, Joshua died, and, in the following June, Julius O. Murdock was admitted, forming the present company. For the first eight years the business was small. When the present firm was organized the company had only thirteen machines.

In 1857 they bought the business of Baylies Upham, thus adding twenty machines to their plant that year. Previous to 1864 the motive-power was horses in a eireular tread-mill. In that year steam was substituted for the primitive horse-power. At the present time they have one hundred and thirty-seven machines, eapable of producing more than one hundred thousand feet of cards yearly, and their maehine card business is the largest in town. The business has from the first been carried on at the same site. J. & J. Murdock's factory was enlarged in 1856 by the addition of sixty-six feet, and, in 1866, it was further enlarged by what is now the main building, thirty-five by one hundred and fifty feet. In 1868 a new branch of the business was added, and machinery put in for currying and finishing the leather for cards, eighteen thousand sides yearly being finished and used for this purpose, in addition to a considerable quantity of cloth.

In the early part of the year 1888 a dynamo was put in and the works lighted by electricity.

After leaving the firm of James & John A. Smith & Co. in 1830, John A. Smith began the manufacture of card-clothing on the site of the present Wire Mill. In 1844 he was succeeded by the firm of Southgate & Smith, consisting of Samuel Southgate, Jr., and John S. Smith. In 1859 Horace Waite, who had been making hand-cards on the first floor of Waite's faetory while Southgate & Smith were using the upper floor, sueceeded Mr. Southgate, and the firm beeame Smith & Waite. Mr. Smith retired in 1867, and the firm of E. C. & L. M. Waite & Co. was organized. Mr. Horaee Waite died in 1871, Lucius M. retired in 1874, and the business has since been continued by Edward C. Waite.

Josephus Woodeock, Benjamin Conklin and Austin Conklin, as the firm of *Conklin, Woodcock & Co.*, began the machine-eard business on Pleasant Street in 1828; dissolved in 1830, when Mr. Woodcoek, with his brother Lucius, formed the firm of J. & L. Woodcock. Danforth Rice was with them from 1831 to 1836, and William P. White from 1848 till his death, in 1881. Charles H. then took the interest of his father, Josephus Woodcoek; Henry Biseo joined the company, and the business was continued in the name of L. Woodcock & Co. until 1888, when it was given up, and the machinery sold to the Card Clothing Association. Mr. Lueius Woodcoek died in 1887.

Baylies Upham manufactured machine-eards from 1825 till 1857, when he sold to J. & J. Murdoeh. From 1825 till 1833 Samuel Hurd was in company with him, and from 1849 to 1855 Irving Sprague.

After leaving Mr. Upham, Mr. Hurd united with James Trask in the manufacture of machine and hand-cards, on the Trask plaee, on Mount Pleasant. Mr. Trask died in 1848, and Mr. Hurd removed to the rear of White & Denny's factory. In 1862 he sold to L. S. Watson, but continued to make cards till 1866 on eommission. William F. Holman manufactured hand-cards from 1867 to 1873.

Claramon Hunt made eards on a foundation of wood from 1868 to 1874 in White & Denny's factory, and then sold to L. S. Watson & Co.

In 1842 *John H. & William Whittemore* began the manufaeture of card-clothing in the building west of the Friends' burying-ground, whieh William Earle was at the same time using for making card-maehines. In 1845 they received their brother James. John H. was killed on the Western Railroad in 1851, and the firm assumed the name of W. & J. Whittemore. James died in 1882. William F., his son, joined the company in 1874. After making eards about a year at Mannville, the Whittemores removed to the Centre Village, and occupied, for a few years, the building on Market Street in which is now Wheeler's meat-market. They then built their faetory, which was much enlarged in 1883.

Cheney Hatch, first on Pleasant Street, then on Main Street, made cards from 1823 to 1836, when he sold to Alden Biseo, who soon sold to Henry A. Denny, who, in 1849, took into partnership his sons —Joseph Waldo and William S.,—as the firm of Henry A. Denny & Sons. In 1854 they sold to White & Denny.

Henry A. Denny commenced making hand-cards in 1823, with Emory Drury, as the firm of Drury & Denny, on Pleasant Street, about a mile south of Main Street, where Samuel D. Watson had before carried on the same business two or three years. They dissolved, and he continued alone, on the eorner of Main and Mechanic Streets. Afterward he was associated with Reuben Merriam, until 1836, when he purchased the factory hitherto used by Mr. Hatch.

Col. Thomas Denny, with William Earle, made hand-eards on Denny Hill. In 1802 he began the manufaeture of cards, hand and maehine, on the eorner of Main and Market Streets, which he eondueted on an extensive seale till his death, in 1814. He had in the same building the post-office and a store.

Jonathan Earle manufactured cards on Mount Pleasant from 1804 to 1813.

Alpheus Smith built a brick factory, afterward the house of H. G. Henshaw, where he manufactured card clothing from 1813 to 1823, and was succeeded by his brother Horace.

James Stone made hand-cards from 1849 to 1853.

Roswell Sprague built a store opposite the academy, and in it manufactured cards.

Reuben Merriam, in the same house, made hand and machine-cards, and built card machines for many years, from 1821, George W. Morse and Henry A. Denny being at times his partners.

Capt. William Sprague & Sons were engaged in the same business; also Brigham Barton, Bernard Upham, Samuel D. Watson, Aaron Morse, Guy S. Newton, Timothy Earle, Samuel Southgate, William H. Scott, Oliver Sylvester and others.

Joseph B. and Edward Sargent began the manufacture of hand cards at the "Brick Factory," May 1, 1854. George H. Sargent came into the firm January 1, 1859, at which time the well-known Sargent Hardware Commission House was established, in New York City. They carried on the hand-card business in Leicester on a large scale, purchasing the interest of several other firms. About the year 1868 they removed the business to Worcester, and in 1883 sold to L. S. Watson & Co.

L. S. Watson & Co. are the principal hand-card manufacturers in the country. Like other interests in town, this enterprise has gradually grown from a very small beginning. Lory S. Watson came to Leicester from Spencer in 1842, and in company with Horace Waite bought one-half of Col. Joseph D. Sargent's machinery. Waite & Watson made hand-cards in the "Brick Factory" till 1845, when the co-partnership was dissolved, each partner taking one-half of the machines. At this time Mr. Watson had eight card-setting machines, which were distributed in different factories, in which he hired power. The coarse cards were pricked at Mulberry Grove by one of Silas Earle's pricking-machines, and the teeth set by hand. About the year 1861 he bought out Samuel Hurd and George Upham. In this year he built the present factory, and introduced for power Ericson's hot-air engine. In 1865 he took his son Edwin L. into partnership, under the title of L. S. Watson & Co. The factory was enlarged in 1866, and steam-power was introduced. In 1878 the building was again enlarged, and again in 1885. It is in size one hundred feet by forty feet, and of four stories, and there are also separate store-houses. In 1883 they bought the hand card machinery and stock of Sargent Hardware Co., and for nearly two years carried on a branch establishment in Worcester. At present they have one hundred machines, and manufacture about 14,000 dozen pairs of hand-cards annually. In 1873 the company began the manufacture of wire heddles, which they have continued as a separate department. The capacity of the wire heddle machines is 100,000 daily.

The history of Leicester is closely identified with the rise and development of card manufacture in this country. At first the entire process was hand-work. The holes were pricked by hand. The machine for pricking was then invented, and for many years the setting of teeth by hand furnished employment for women and children in their homes throughout this whole region. In this way they could, at one time, earn fourteen cents a day. This continued through the first quarter of the century, when the card-pricking and setting machine began to come into general use.

The use of power in the preparation of the leather is of much more recent date. As we have seen, Mr. John Woodcock invented the machine for splitting leather, something like seventy-five years ago, and the preparation of the leather by power has been coming into use within the last twenty-five years. Cloth also is now extensively used.

At first the machines were moved by hand. Dog-power was then introduced, then horse-power. Thirty years ago White & Denny's factory was the only establishment in which steam-power was employed. It is now used in all. Within two years the heavy machines for grinding cards after they are set, has been brought into general use in town. The business now requires larger facilities and capital than were necessary at an earlier period. There has been a change in the number and magnitude of the manufacturing establishments. There are at present only five card-clothing factories in town. Formerly many men made hand-cards on a small scale. Now there is only one firm in town engaged in this branch of the business, and there are only three manufactories of cotton and woolen hand cards in the country. There were made in the year 1887 by all the card-clothing manufacturers in the country 975,742 square feet, valued at $1,219,677. Of these, 216,468 feet were made in Leicester, valued at $270,585.

Woolen Manufacture.—Samuel Watson is entitled to the position of pioneer woolen manufacturer in Leicester. During the War of 1812, or as Washburn states, "previous to 1814 he enlarged his clothier's shop," and began the weaving of woolen cloth upon looms moved by hand. The mill was located on the Auburn road near Main Street, on the privilege used by Richard Southgate for his saw-mill, the second erected in town. Alexander Parkman afterward used it as a fulling-mill, and was followed by Asahel Washburn. According to Washburn's history Mr. Watson leased the mill to James Anderton, who had been bred a woolen manufacturer in Lancashire, England, who disposed of his interest to Thomas Bottomly, "who continued to carry on the business there until 1825." The building was burnt February 11, 1848.

Mr. Bottomly may truthfully be termed the found-



E. G. Coulton

er of Cherry Valley as a manufacturing village. When he came to Leicester there were, as nearly as can be ascertained, only ten houses in what is now the village. Most of the present residences were built in his lifetime, and it was by him that the three brick factories were erected. He was a native of Yorkshire, England. He had worked in the factories as a child, but was afterward a shepherd on the moors, where he earned money with which to come to America. He came to this country in 1819, landing at Philadelphia, where he worked for a short time, and then started on foot for Rochdale, where was James Anderton, whom he had known in England. He found himself without money before the journey was completed, and always remembered with special gratitude the kindness of a family in Connecticut who entertained him over the Sabbath. He worked in Rochdale for a time, and came to Cherry Valley, and built what is now Olney's Mill in 1821, and was running it as late as 1824. The cloth was woven by hand in a building before used as a tannery, where the post-office now stands.

There was a saw-mill here at an early date owned by Benjamin Studley. About the year 1765 the privilege, with an acre of land, was bought by the "Forge Partners," who erected a building for some kind of iron-works. They, however, sold the property, which was called the "Forge Acre," to Matthew Watson, who had there a saw-mill till about the year 1821, when Thomas Bottomly built on it a woolen-factory of brick. Such is the early history of this site, with a few variations, as given by Governor Washburn and also by Joseph A. Denny, Esq., except that Washburn makes 1820 the date of building the mill, while Mr. Bottomly's son Wright places it 1821.

There have been various transfers of the property since that time. It passed from Thomas Bottomly to the Bottomly Manufacturing Company June 1, 1827, from them back to Thomas Bottomly November 10, 1846, from him to Samuel Bottomly March 10, 1849, from him to George Hodges July 6th of the same year, and December 21st one-half of Mr. Hodges' interest to Benjamin A. Farnum. June 20, 1855, Samuel L. Hodges came into possession of his father's interest, and October 9, 1857, that of Mr. Farnum, making him at this date the sole owner of the property. The factory was partially destroyed by fire September 7, 1864; up to Mr. Hodges' time broadcloths of superior grade were woven here. He introduced the manufacture of flannels. By his energy and public spirit Mr. Hodges did much to build up Cherry Valley.

In 1866, October 9th, the property was conveyed in trust to George H. Gilbert, Jr., George Hodges and Henry C. Weston, and by them to B. A. Farnum, June 7, 1867, Mr. and Mrs. Hodges giving them a quit-claim deed the same day. Frank C. Fiske came into possession January 1, 1870. The mill was nearly destroyed by fire June 3, 1874. Albert T. B. Ames purchased it August 1, 1874, and at the same time made a declaration of trust as to one-half of the property, held for George W. Olney, who with him formed the company of George W. Olney & Co. They rebuilt and opened the mill in the autumn of 1874, and continued to run it till February, 1876. George W. Olney came into entire possession March 22, 1876, and reopened the mill June 14, 1876, since which time he has continued the manufacture of flannels. Two considerable additions have since been made to the main building—one in 1881, and the other in 1885. A storehouse and other buildings and several tenement-houses have also been erected, and the general aspect of that part of the village much improved. The factory contains seven sets of cards, forty-six looms and four thousand two hundred and forty spindles. Mr. Olney is largely interested, also, in manufacturing in Lisbon, Maine.

In 1821 James Anderton began the manufacture of broadcloths and cassimeres in the south part of the town, in a small wooden mill, built about this time, by Thomas Scott, on the site of the present Lower Rochdale Factory. The Leicester Manufacturing Company was soon incorporated, and continued the same business, being afterward united with the Saxon Manufacturing Company, in Framingham, as the Saxon and Leicester Company. Mr. Joshua Clapp bought the property in 1829 and continued the same line of manufactures till 1840. For two or three years little was done in the mill. It then came into the hands of John Marland, of Andover, who sold it in 1845 to Barnes & Mansur, who added the manufacture of flannels. The building was burned in 1846. The same year Mr. Reuben S. Denny bought out Mr. Mansur's interest, and, with Mr. Barnes, built a brick factory on the same site, which was completed in 1847. Mr. Denny in 1850 bought out Mr. Barnes. This factory was burned in 1851, and rebuilt in 1852. Meantime, about the year 1844, a wooden building had been erected on the site of the present Upper Factory, where the manufacture of carpets was carried on for a year with indifferent success This building Mr. Denny bought while erecting his new factory, and manufactured white flannels. It was burned in 1854, and the present brick building took its place.

In 1856 Ebenezer Dale, representing the firm of Johnson, Sewall & Co., of Boston, came into possession of both factories and a large property, real and personal, connected with them. In the two mills are thirteen sets of machinery. Since 1859, first as the Clappville Mills, then as the Rochdale Mills, they have manufactured flannels and ladies' dress goods, averaging for the last twenty years from one to one and a half million yards. New and improved machinery has within a few years taken the place of the old. E. G. Carlton has for thirty years been the agent and manager, and the reputation of the products of the Rochdale Mills is exceeded by few, if any, manufacturing establishments in the country.

In 1838 Amos S. Earle and Billings Mann, as the

firm of Earle & Mann, began the manufacture of satinets in the building near the corner of Mannville and Earle Streets, at Mannville, in which Earle & Bros. had made card-machines and Amos S. Earle had afterward made hand-cards. Mr. Mann removed from town in 1844. Nathan Daniels became Mr. Earle's partner, and the firm of Earle & Daniels built forty feet of the present mill. Mr. Daniels died and the estate being solvent, it was bought by a syndicate of creditors.

Meantime Mr. Mann had been engaged in the same business in Holden with Albert Marshall. In 1853 Mann & Marshall purchased the property, enlarged the mill and continued the manufacture of satinets twenty-two years. They were heavy losers in the Boston fire in 1872, and were obliged soon after to suspend business. George and Billings Mann were associated with them for about one year. In 1879 George and Billings Mann and John P. Stephen, their brother-in-law, began business. They have enlarged and improved the plant, built cottages for the operatives and conducted a prosperous business.

Cherry Valley Woolen-Mills.—In 1836 Thos. Bottomly laid the foundations of the factory now run by the Cherry Valley Woolen-Mills on the privilege early occupied by Nathan Sargent as a grist-mill. In 1837 he began there the manufacture of broad-cloths. He sold to Effingham L. Capron in 1845.

In 1859 the mill was owned by E. D. Thayer and used by Mowry Lapham and James A. Smith, under the firm-name of Lapham & Smith, until 1862, when Mr. Smith sold to Mr. Lapham and removed to Rhode Island.

In 1863 the building was destroyed by fire, and the privilege remained vacant till 1865, when George N. and James A. Smith bought it and built a six-set mill for the manufacture of fancy cassimeres. In 1868 George N. Smith sold his share to James A. In 1876 the factory was nearly destroyed by the "Flood." Mr. Smith rebuilt in 1878 and leased to Eli Collier and A. E. Smith. Collier & Smith dissolved in 1879, and A. E. Smith continued the business until 1887, when the mill was leased to the present "Cherry Valley Woolen-Mills" Company. The property was sold to F. T. Blaekmer, Esq., of Worcester, in 1881, and is now owned by his heirs. This mill now manufactures ladies' dress and skirt goods.

Kettle Brook, which furnishes the water-power for all the factories in Mannville, Lakeside, Cherry Valley, Valley Falls and Jamesville, and which has repeatedly, in time of freshets, been the source of serious apprehension through the valley, was originally only a little stream winding in picturesque beauty through meadows and forests, and leaping down the rocks through narrow defiles. Says one who lived by it "When I was a little girl, Kettle Brook was a small stream of water, that I have waded across many times."

Collier's Mill.—About the year 1835 L. G. Dickinson built the embankment north of Main Street, and the dam south of the road, where Collier's mill stands. To this place Mr. Dickinson moved his saw-mill, which formerly was located where A. W. Darling & Co.'s mill now is. This mill of Mr. Dickinson was used as a saw-mill until 1844, when it was converted into a satinet factory. The business was carried on by Jonathan Earle. In the same building was the cabinet shop of Silas A. Morse. It was burned to the ground March 24, 1848, but afterwards rebuilt by Mr. Dickinson, of lumber from an old church in Charlton. It was leased to Baker & Bellows October 1, 1848. October 1, 1853, it was leased to Eli Collier. It was burned January 5, 1866, but rebuilt the next summer from the lumber of the Lower Tophet machine-shop and was leased to Collier. April 8, 1881, it was sold to Collier & Butler. September 1, 1888, Butler sold out to Collier. It has been a satinet-mill since it was first changed from a saw mill.

Chapel Mill.—In the year 1836 or '37 John Waite bought land of Samuel Waite, built a dam and canal and erected a mill where the Chapel Mill now stands, on Chapel Street, a few rods north of Main Street. Here he made churns. It was afterwards a shuttle-shop. It was used later, about 1844, by H. G. Henshaw for drawing wire. It was here that Richard Sugden, whose extensive wire business is one of the important factors in the wealth of Spencer, first drew wire in this country; both he and Mr. Myrick worked for Mr. Henshaw. In 1849 Myrick and Sugden bought the machinery of Mr. Henshaw and formed a partnership under the name of Henshaw, Myrick & Sugden, of Spencer. The partnership was dissolved in 1854.

The Chapel Mill property was afterward owned by N. R. Parkherst, and was sold by him to L. G. Dickinson, October, 1854. It has been occupied by John Q. Adams, who used it for a shoddy-mill, and by Bottomly & Fay, who made satinets there.

James Fay was in business there when it was burned, March 7, 1865. The property was bought by Samuel Chism, of Newton, and he rebuilt from the lumber of the old Baptist Church in Greenville, thus giving to the mill the name of Chapel Mill. It was leased to H. G. Kitredge, who made satinets there for two years, then to George A. Kimball and I. R. Barbour, who occupied it until sold to William N. Pierce, April 18, 1871. It was then leased to James A. Smith & Co., who made satinets there until March 6, 1879. May 5, 1879, it was leased to Collier & Butler for three years and nine months, when A. E. Smith bought the property and used it as a satinet-mill until May 1, 1887. George N. Smith then leased it and made satinets until June 15, 1887, when it was burned. Collier & Butler bought the property, rebuilt the mill and leased it to George N. Smith, who now occupies it.

There are in 1889 ten woolen-mills in the town of Leicester, and nine firms engaged in the manufacture

of woolen cloth. The average annual value of the products of these mills is about $1,286,000.

A. W. Darling & Co.—In 1827 Thomas Bottomly built a dam upon Kettle Brook, on Chapel Street, about half a mile from the corner of Main Street. The pond formed thereby was considered a reservoir for the privileges below until 1847, when the present Bottomly Mill was erected by Thomas Bottomly. Previous to this, about 1833 or 1834, L. G. Dickenson erected a saw-mill on the same privilege as the present mill. In 1845, Mr. Bottomly opened a brick-yard on this spot, and made the brick of which, in 1847, he began the present Bottomly Mill. About the same year he caused the Waite meadow to be overflowed; this was the beginning of the Waite reservoir; the property afterwards came into the hands of Booth Bottomly.

In 1874 E. D. Thayer bought the property of the trustees of the Bottomly estate, and has owned it ever since.

Booth Bottomly began to manufacture here in 1855 or 1856, and continued until his death in 1868. Other firms who have occupied the mill are R. L. Hawes & Co., George Kimball & Co., for a short time; E. D. Thayer, for twenty years, Bramley Bottomly being for some years associated with him. After 1876 or 1877 the Hopeville Company used the mill for a few years, then E. D. Thayer, Jr., from 1884 to 1886, when the firm of A. W. Darling & Co. assumed the business. It is a four-set satinet-mill.

The Greenville Woolen-Factory was first built in 1871 by A. W. & J. D. Clark. It was of wood, fifty feet square, and three stories high, with a brick picker-house adjoining. The buildings were rented to Joseph Peel, of Spencer, who began the manufacture of woolen goods in the winter of 1872, and continued until January, 1877; since that time the business has been carried on by J. D. Clark. The mill was enlarged in 1880.

The Lakeside Manufacturing Co.—In 1847, D. Waldo Kent put up a saw-mill at Lakeside. In 1853 he built his planing-mill and box-factory. In this building, in 1857, he set up the first circular saw-mill introduced into this part of the State. In 1866 he began the manufacture of shoddy, and, in 1880, of satinets. The present factory was erected in 1883. Since April, 1885, it has been running night and day. The surroundings of the factory have been much improved, and around it has sprung up a neat little village. The business of the Lakeside Manufacturing Company is carried on by P. G. & Daniel Kent. The factory was first lighted by electricity in July, 1887. In 1885 they bought the Jamesville Mills, in Worcester, and, with the two mills, they are said to be the largest manufacturers of satinets in the country.

The Leicester Wire Company had its origin in 1871. At this time Mr. Cyrus D. Howard, an experienced workman, set up machines and began the drawing of wire for cards in the building which had been used by successive firms as a card manufactory, and later as a box shop. Thomas Shaw was afterward associated with him for a short time as the firm of Cyrus D. Howard & Co. David Bemis went into company with Howard in 1876, as the firm of Howard & Bemis. In 1880 J. Bradford Sargent joined the firm, which became Howard, Bemis & Co. Mr. Howard retired in 1884, and the Leicester Wire Company was organized. Harry E. Sargent came into the firm in 1885, and Mr. Bemis retired. Of this firm H. E. Sargent is president, and J. B. Sargent treasurer. The new buildings were erected in 1881, and engine-house and boiler in 1883. The machinery is principally employed in drawing card, reed and stone wire.

The Lakeside Woolen Mills put in a dynamo and lighted their factory by electricity in July, 1887. Since that time dynamos have been placed in the card factories of J. & J. Murdock, and Decker, Bonitz & Co. On December 19, 1887, an electric plant was established at the Leicester Wire Company's works, by which the other card factories are lighted, also the Leicester Hotel, the stores in the centre, and several private houses.

Charles W. Warren began the making of shoe-counters in the house on the southwest corner of Main and Rawson Streets about the year 1852, then moved to the house on the lot between the bank and the post-office about the year 1854, there manufacturing insoles. The buildings were burnt in 1862. In 1867 he built his house and factory on Pleasant Street. The factory has been several times enlarged, and is devoted to the manufacture of shoe-heels, employing about forty persons.

Boots and Shoes.—The only shoe manufactory in town is that of Horace & Warren Smith, on Mt. Pleasant, begun in 1865. Among those who at different times have carried on the boot and shoe business are Amasa Watson, Delphus Washburn, Baldwin Watson, Cheney Hatch, Wm. F. Holman.

About the year 1849 several gentlemen formed a company for the manufacture of boots, having in mind the increase of business in town. The work was at first carried on in the house on Market Street in which is Wheeler's meat market, where there was horse-power. After a few years it was removed to Main Street, where now stands the house of E. D. Waite. On the 25th of September, 1860, the building was burnt. The company had met with heavy losses in consequence of the failures of that period, and after the fire the business was abandoned.

Leather.—The tanning and currying of leather appears to have been a prominent industry in former times. Elijah Warren had a tannery on the main road, half a mile from the Spencer line, at a very early date. He was succeeded by his son, Joseph. Henry E. Warren afterward owned it, and had also a tan-house north of Main Street, near the Spencer line. It was burned in 1848. John Lynde, the early settler,

also had a tannery in the north part of the town. Jonathan Warren had a tannery on Pine Street, two miles from the village, and was succeeded by his sons Jonathan and Elijah. It was burned in 1825. Lieut. Jonas Stone built a tannery at the foot of Strawberry Hill in 1790, where work was continued by different persons for thirty or forty years,—among them Thaddeus Upham, and E. H. & George Bowen. Mr. Studley had a tannery in Cherry Valley, where the post-office now stands. Amasa Warren and Horace and Baldwin Watson were tanners in the west part of the town.

Leander Warren, when a young man, began the currying business near the house of his father, Joseph Warren. In 1845 he bought the place south of the Centre School-house, where he carried on the business till his death, in 1862, when he was succeeded by John N. Grout. Since Mr. Grout's time there has been no currying done in town, except in connection with Murdock's Card Manufactory.

A. Hankey & Co., Manufacturers of Machine Knives.—In 1798 Caleb Wall bought land of the Green family and built above the present works of A. Hankey & Co. a blacksmith shop, where he made scythes, carrying on a large business. In 1830 Thomas Wall and Nathan Harkness built on the present site of the "Lower Shop," and carried on the business three or four years, and were followed by Cadsey, Brown & Draper.

In 1848 Hankey, Stiles & Co. purchased the property and remodeled it for the manufacture of machine-knives. The firm was Anthony Hankey, Francis Stiles and H. C. Bishop. About 1851 Mr. Hankey went into the dredging business in Boston, where he had invented a dredging-machine. The business in Greenville was carried on by Stiles & Co. (F. Stiles and F. W. Taylor) until a few years later, when Mr. Hankey returned and managed the business under the firm-name of Stiles & Co. This partnership was dissolved July 14, 1866, and in October of the same year Stiles sold his entire interest to A. Hankey & Co. J. E. Jones was admitted as a partner, but he only remained a short time. The firm was A. Hankey and George A. Corser. In February, 1877, Hankey bought out Corser, and continued the business alone until March, 1881, when J. X. Rogers was admitted to the partnership under the old firm-name of A. Hankey & Co., which continues to this date.

In 1881 a system of improvements was inaugurated. The old buildings were torn down and new and larger ones erected; new water-ways and new machinery were added, and it is to-day the largest and most complete shop in the world for the exclusive manufacture of machine-knives. The products of this shop go to all parts of the world, in many instances direct to Cuba, South America, Spain, Germany and China. In 1887 a branch was started in Philadelphia. It is an interesting fact that the first knives that were used on a planing-machine in this country were forged by hand by Mr. Hankey in Boston, and also that the first dies for cutting out paper collars were made at this shop.

Leicester National Bank.—"Leicester Bank" was chartered as a State bank March 4, 1826, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, which in 1853 was increased to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and in 1854 to two hundred thousand dollars. John Clapp was made president of the bank April 26, 1826; N. P. Denny, October 4, 1830; Joshua Clapp, October 3, 1836; Waldo Flint, October 2, 1837; Joseph A. Denny, October 1, 1838; Cheney Hatch, October 2, 1843; Charles A. Denny, December 16, 1878. John A. Smith was appointed cashier May 26, 1826; H. G. Henshaw, October 21, 1826; D. E. Merriam, December 15, 1845; George H. Sprague, May 20, 1885. The institution was made a national bank March 21, 1865.

The first bank building was in connection with the old town-house, built in 1826 by the town and the bank. In 1853 the bank was removed to the brick building east of Leicester Hotel. In 1871 the present bank was completed and the business removed to it.

Leicester Savings Bank.—The Leicester Savings Bank was incorporated April 17, 1869. Cheney Hatch was elected president May 5, 1869, and Lory S. Watson, May 21, 1879. D. E. Merriam was the first treasurer, appointed May 14, 1869, and was succeeded by the present incumbent, George H. Sprague, May 24, 1885. The present amount of deposits is three hundred and ninety-one thousand two hundred and eighty dollars.

Miscellaneous Industries.—There have been several hatters. John Whittemore bound books where the Whittemore Card Factory now stands. Hori Brown had a printing-office on the west corner of Main and Mechanic Streets, where he not only did job-work, but printed books; among these was "Scott's Lessons," printed in 1815.

At the foot of the hill, from 1823 to 1853, was the grocery of Evi Chilson, especially prized by students of the academy for the rare quality of its entertainment for the inner man. It is remembered by them after many other things are forgotten.

It would be impossible to mention all the different kinds of business carried on at different times in town, or to give the history of the many stores.

CHAPTER VII.

LEICESTER—(*Continued.*)

THE CIVIL WAR.

Sixth Massachusetts Regiment—War Meetings—Twenty-fifth Regiment—Fifteenth, Twenty-first, Thirty-fourth, Forty-second—Action of the Town—Other Soldiers—Expenditures—Casualties—Close of the War.

NEWS of the attack on Fort Sumter reached Leicester on Saturday, April 13, 1861, and occasioned the most intense excitement. Then first the people comprehended the fact that the war had begun. Young men at once declared their intention to respond to the first call for soldiers, and men too old for service avowed their readiness to make any sacrifice required for the preservation of the Union. From that day to the close of the war the town of Leicester loyally and liberally accepted all the demands of the government upon it for money and for men. The call of President Lincoln for 75,000 volunteers met here the same prompt answer which it received throughout the loyal North.

Leicester had a special interest in the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, the first to march from the State and to receive the baptism of blood. Its commander, Col. Edward F. Jones, was a native of Leicester, as was also Joseph Waldo Denny, lieutenant in the Worcester Light Infantry. They had been pupils together in Leicester Academy. There were other Leicester men in the regiment.

There were sixteen Leicester men in the Third Battalion of Rifles, which left Worcester on the 20th of April. Their names were: Henry H. Bowman, Bramley A. Bottomly, Michael Collins, John P. Crimmins, Jacob H. Gibson, George W. Hateh, John Kirk, Joseph Laverty, Martin Leonard, Randall H. Mann, John McDonald, John Moriarty, J. Dawson Robinson, Emerson Stone, Jesse S. Scott and William B. White. Church Howe and Myron J. Newton enlisted in the Sixth Regiment.

The battalion was stationed at Fort McHenry, and returned on the 2d day of August, and was received with great joy. Several of these men reenlisted, and their records are given in connection with the regiments which they joined. The evening before the departure of the Third Battalion for the seat of war, news of the attack on the Sixth Regiment had been received, and had deepened the agitation. That day the national flag, before seldom seen except on government buildings, and sometimes on the Fourth of July, was thrown to the breeze on the flag-staff on the Common. The war was the all-absorbing subject of thought, conversation, discourse and prayer on the following day, which was the Sabbath.

On Monday evening, April 22d, was held the first of those memorable war meetings, which made the town-hall a historic building, and in which the fervent patriotism of the people of Leicester found earnest and eloquent expression, as in the days of the Revolution it had done in the old "First Meeting-House." On the 26th forty or fifty of the young men of the town commenced military drill in the town-hall, under the instruction of John M. Studley, of Worcester. A town-meeting was held the 4th of May, and $500 was raised and appropriated, and a committee was authorized to borrow $5000 if necessary. A bounty of $10 a month, in addition to government pay, was offered to volunteers, and uniforms, guns and equipments were to be furnished if necessary. The women were equally patriotic and efficient. Their first meeting for work was in the town-hall, May 13th, where, in response to notices from the pulpit the day before, they assembled, to the number of about sixty, and with four or five sewing-machines and many busy hands, made garments for the Third Battalion of Rifles. On the 15th, at 6½ o'clock on a pleasant May day, a beautiful flag was raised over the Centre School-house, with music by the band and addresses by the School Committee—Dr. Pliny Earle, Dr. John Murdock and Rev. A. H. Coolidge. Flags were also flying in different parts of the town. Says one, writing at the time, "The war feeling seems to absorb every other thought, and the subject of religion seems secondary to patriotism, which now occupies the mind not only of the private individual, but the pulpit and the press."

There had not been for a generation such a revulsion of feeling as was occasioned in town by the exaggerated tidings of the disaster of Bull Run. Men turned pale, and abandoning all hope of easy victory, nerved themselves for the long struggle, which was not to be ended until many of our own citizens had laid down their lives for their country.

In the early autumn of 1861 the Twenty-fifth Massachusetts Regiment was formed, with a larger number of men from Leicester than any other three years' regiment. In it were many representatives of the families in town, and it was followed in all its eventful and honorable career with the special solicitude and interest of the people.

The national fast, appointed by President Lincoln for September 26th, on account of the perilous and gloomy condition of the country, was a memorable occasion in Leicester. Services were held in the First Church. The attendance was large, and the congregation deeply affected. The recruits for the Twenty-fifth Regiment were to leave for camp that day, and this fact added to the impressiveness of the occasion.

In this regiment were Corp. Augustus Adams, in ten engagements, taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff, died at Florence, S. C.; Charles M. Ball, arm broken at Cold Harbor, killed at Petersburg; Corporal James Brady, Edwin Y. Brown, William Carson, David B. Collier, in six engagements; Isaac Creed, in eight engage-

ments, three wounds at Cold Harbor; Otis Cutting, wounded at Drury's Bluff; William Eddy, wounded at Petersburg; William Fernley, taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff, died at Andersonville; Owen Finnegan, in several engagements, wounded at Arrowfield Church; Horace L. Fisk; James S. Foster, died at Newbern; Levander M. Gould, died at Newbern; James Gehegan, wounded at Arrowfield Church, in ten engagements; John Galooly, died at Charlotte, N. C.; David Gotha, in seven engagements; George W. Gould, killed at Cold Harbor; Edward R. Graton, wounded at Roanoke Island and died of the wounds. He was saved from instant death by his prayer-book, the ball stopping at the verse,

> Thou, gracious Lord, art my defence,
> On thee my hopes rely.

Braman Grout, in two battles; George L. Grout, in two battles; Thomas Grooves, died at Newbern; William Henshaw, Patrick W. Hannagan, wounded at Cold Harbor; Albert S. Hurd, killed at Cold Harbor, in most of the battles of the regiment; George E. Kent, wounded at Roanoke Island, died at Newbern; Hugh Kenney, in three engagements, wounded at Arrowfield Church; Peter Kenney, wounded at Arrowfield Church and at Cold Harbor; William H. Kenney, killed at Cold Harbor; Sergeant John Kirk, in most of the battles of the regiment, taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff; Eugene D. Lacount, wounded and taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff; Michael Leonard, wounded at Drury's Bluff; John McMannis, wounded at Drury's Bluff; Corporal Randall Mann, killed at the battle of Roanoke Island; John McLaughlin, in ten battles, wounded at Cold Harbor; Lyman Moulton, killed at Cold Harbor; Ezra Reed, Albert Stockdale, wounded at Arrowfield Church and at Petersburg; First Sergeant Emerson Stone, lost an arm at Drury's Bluff, passed as captain of United States Colored Troops just as the war came to an end; Sergeant H. A. White, wounded in the foot at Drury's Bluff, in the battles of his regiment till his discharge in the summer of 1864.

The Twenty-fifth Regiment formed a part of the Burnside Expedition in North Carolina, and remained in that State till 1864, when it was united with the Army of the James, serving in Virginia before Richmond and Petersburg. After suffering severely and becoming reduced to a mere skeleton, it returned to North Carolina, and being recruited, participated in the closing scenes of the war under General Sherman. It will be noticed that the casualties of Leicester men in this regiment were especially numerous at Cold Harbor. Of the charge, in which the Twenty-fifth Regiment bore the brunt, Gen. Horace Porter writes in the *Century*, of June, 1888: "Perhaps the most striking case of desperate and deliberate courage which the history of modern warfare has furnished was witnessed at Cold Harbor. The men had been repeatedly repulsed in assaulting earthworks, had each time lost heavily, and had become impressed with the conviction that such attacks meant certain death. One evening after a dangerous assault had been ordered for daylight the next morning, I noticed in passing along the line that many of the men had taken off their coats and seemed engaged in mending rents in the back. Upon closer examination I found that they were calmly writing their names and home addresses on slips of paper and pinning these slips upon the backs of their coats, so that their dead bodies might be recognized upon the field and their fate made known to their friends at home. Never was there a more gallant assault than that made by those men the next day, though their act of the night before bore painful proof that they had entered upon their work without a hope of surviving. Such courage is more than heroic, it is sublime." Of this charge Gen. P. D. Bowles, who had command of the Confederate line, wrote, "The regiment that made this gallant charge was the Twenty-fifth Massachusetts. This we learned from the twenty-odd officers and men who fell down among the dead and wounded at the first fire. Not since the charge of the six hundred at Balaklava has a more heroic act been performed."

During the summer the Fifteenth and Twenty-first Massachusetts Regiments were enlisted. In the Fifteenth were from Leicester, W. H. Bergen, Simeon E. Ball, who died in the service at Poolesville, Md.; Henry Carpenter, in all the engagements from Ball's Bluff, in which the Fifteenth suffered so severely, to Gettysburg, in both of which battles he was severely wounded; H. R. Dawson transferred to the Twentieth; Chas. W. Clifford; the three Davis brothers, Freeman wounded at Ball's Bluff, reinlisted in the Fifty-seventh Regiment and killed in the battle of the Wilderness; William M. who returned from Libby prison and died; Alfred W., who died from wounds at the battle of Antietam; Charles A. Gleason, who was taken prisoner at Antietam and again in the Wilderness, and who was in Libby prison, Andersonville and Milan, where he died; Charles H. Gough, killed at Ball's Bluff, the first Leicester soldier who lost his life in the service; Maj. Church Howe, first in the Sixth Regiment and then in the Fifteenth, in thirteen battles; lieutenant quartermaster in the Fifteenth Regiment, provost marshal at Harper's Ferry, and senior aide-de-camp to Major-General Sedgwick; Peter McGee; Sergeant John A. Richardson transferred to the Twentieth Regiment; Samuel Slater; Corporal Charles W. Wood in eighteen engagements, taken prisoner at Gettysburg and again at Petersburg, confined at Andersonville, Milan, Savannah, Albany and Thomasville. These men were, with few exceptions, sharers in the hardships, the battles and the sufferings of this historic regiment.

In the Twenty-first Regiment were James Bell, who, in the battle of Chantilly, becoming separated from his regiment and finding himself surrounded by the enemy, continued to fight single-handed and was shot. Horatio N. Barrows in five battles, wounded at An-

tietam; Edgar C. Felton, also in the Thirty-sixth and Fifty-sixth; Thomas Hurst, killed at Newbern; John Hopkins, transferred to the Thirty-sixth and to the Fifty-sixth; James Lackey, also in the Thirty-sixth and Fifty-sixth, died of wounds received in the Wilderness; Barney McNulty, also in the Thirty-sixth and Fifty-sixth; Wm. McGrath, transferred to United States Cavalry; Jesse S. Scott, musician, also in the Fifty-seventh; Frank H. Southwick, wounded at Antietam; Wm. W. Scott, afterward asst. quartermaster at Chattanooga; Edgar Salisbury, wagoner.

John Graham was in the Signal Corps and also the First Frontier Cavalry. Jerome Bottomly, artificer and Andrew Crossley were in Co. C, Battalion United States Engineers' Troops, enlisting in the autumn of 1861, and serving three years. The company was recruited by Captain (afterwards Major-General) James B. McPherson, its first commander. They were engaged in all the varied duties of military engineers, laying out roads, fortifications and defences of various kinds, and especially in building pontoon bridges, often in the face of the enemy. They assisted in building one across the Chickahominy and another over the James, each two thousand feet in length. They often acted as infantry. The names of seventeen battles of the Rebellion are inscribed on their colors.

In the summer of 1862 the Thirty-fourth Regiment was organized. Leicester contributed to it the following men: Edwin N. Adams, transferred to the Twenty-fourth Regiment; Henry H. Bowman, first in Third Battalion Rifles, in seven engagements; Alexander Benway, John A. Barr, Joseph R. Brooks, Frederick S. Blodgett; Corporal Henry Converse in nine engagements; Timothy P. Griffin, principal musician; Edwin Holden in sixteen engagements, wounded at Fisher's Hill; Edwin Hoyle, wounded and a prisoner six months at Andersonville; Lincoln L. Johnson died at Harrisonburg, Va.; Sergeant Alfred James in eight engagements, wounded at Fisher's Hill; Franklin B. King, Lieut. Ira E. Lackey, Matthew Malloy, Corporal Rufus H. Newton, in sixteen battles, wounded at Winchester, and severely at Petersburg; Frank Pollard, Michael Rice, in fifteen engagements, wounded at Petersburg; Corporal James Rawdon, died of wounds; Lieutenant Walter W. Scott in ten engagements; John Shean, Henry Southwick, Corporal Henry E. Williams, wounded in the battle of Piedmont, a minie-ball passing through the left arm, through the body, and lodging in the right arm, captured and taken to Libby prison. John Sherman, James Sherman, Owen Smith, also as Leicester soldiers, Joseph P. Morse, from Worcester, and Norris Morse, of Spencer. The regiment left Worcester August 15, 1862. It served principally in the Shenandoah Valley, under Generals Sigel, Hunter and Sheridan, until March, 1865, when it formed a part of the Army of the James until the surrender of Richmond. Some of these men were with Sheriden at the time of his famous "ride." They participated in the various forced marches, raids, skirmishes and battles of that heroic commander, as well as in the later battles of the war.

The duties of the town officers during this and succeeding years were very arduous and perplexing. No pains were spared to fill each new order for men. In July, 1862, the town was called upon for forty-five men as its quota of the three hundred thousand called for by the President. In anticipation of the order a meeting of the citizens was held in the Town Hall on the evening of the 14th day of July. It was a rainy night, but the attendance was large, and stirring addresses were made by the clergymen and several other citizens of the town. It was voted expedient to pay liberal bounties, and the selectmen were requested to open a recruiting office and call a legal meeting forthwith. The next day a guarantee subscription of $1,000 for bounties was secured. On the 22d a company of thirty-two Spencer volunteers passed through town, escorted by the Spencer and Leicester fire companies and the Leicester Cornet Band. They halted a few minutes before the cottage of the venerable Dr. Nelson, who briefly addressed them. The town-meeting was held on the 26th of the same month, and it was unanimously voted to pay a bounty of $100 to all volunteers who had already enlisted or who should enlist under this call; that an additional bounty of $50 be paid to all who should remain in the service longer than one year; and an extra bounty of $25 to any who should enlist before the next Monday, at 9 o'clock, P.M. The meeting was adjourned to the evening, when patriotic addresses were made by several gentlemen. On the 28th a mass-meeting was held, but the process of filling the quota was difficult and slow. It was not completed when another call was issued for three hundred thousand men, to serve nine months. The town was ordered to furnish sixty men. On the evening of the 18th of August another war-meeting was held in the Town Hall. It was large, and proved to be the most stirring and eventful of those remarkable assemblies. John D. Cogswell, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, presided. Addresses were made by various prominent citizens. The chairman, in a few earnest words, urged all who could to enlist at once, and then placed his own name at the head of the list. Sixteen came forward at once, in the words of the Worcester *Spy*, "amidst the cheers and enthusiasm of the large number of ladies and gentlemen, who remained to a late hour." Among the number was the Rev. William F. Lacount, pastor of the Methodist Church in Cherry Valley. The quota was filled in a few days by volunteers. "Among them," as was truthfully stated in the *Spy*, "were the present and former chairmen of the Board of Selectmen, and many of the enterprising young men from the best families of the village. The industrious mechanic left a prosperous business, the minister his people, the collegiate his college class, and the husband and father the comforts and pleasures of

home to unite in putting down speedily this wicked and savage rebellion." Before August 30th fifty had volunteered, all but four of whom became members of a company recruited from Spencer, North Brookfield and Leicester, of which John D. Cogswell was captain, and T. M. Duncan, of North Brookfield, and Lyman A. Powers, of Spencer, lieutenants. On September 18 the company thus formed came together in the Town Hall, where the Leicester ladies served a collation, long remembered by these men in the subsequent days of army rations. Addresses were made by citizens and officers of the company, which was conveyed to its camp on the Agricultural Grounds in Worcester, preceded by the band, and escorted by the Union Fire Company. It was finally assigned, as Company F, to the Forty-second Massachusetts Regiment. They sailed on the 4th of December under sealed orders. After a long, stormy and perilous voyage, they reached New Orleans the 29th of December, where they served under General Banks. They were in no battles, but were engaged in arduous guard and picket duty.

They were mustered out of service August 20, 1863. A public reception had been arranged for them on their return, and tables were set in the Town Hall, but they were so much worn by their hardships in the malarial regions of New Orleans and so many were ill that the purpose was abandoned.

In this regiment were thirty-eight men from Leicester,—Albert M. Adams (who afterward enlisted in the Second Iowa Cavalry; was captured in Tennessee by Hood's army December 17, 1864, while on a charge; taken on foot to Meridian, five hundred and ninety miles, through mud, and over frozen ground, the last half of the way barefoot; thence in stock cars to Andersonville, thence to Macon, Ga., thence to Albany, Ga., thence on foot to Thomasville, Ga., thence by rail to Baleluin, Fla., thence on foot to Jacksonville, "arriving under the Star Spangled Banner April 29, 1865"), George Adams, Sergeant Bramley A. Bottomly, Corporal Charles B. Brown, Henry Biseo, Moses Bagley, Captain John D. Cogswell, Albert W. Cargell, Corporal James H. Croome, Clark K. Denny, Lewis W. Gates, George D. Hatch, Edward W. Hubbard, Henry E. Holbrook, William H. Haven, Charles S. Knight, John Craft, Rev. William F. Lacount (pastor of Cherry Valley M. E. Church, who acted a part of the time as chaplain and the rest as hospital nurse), Franklin M. Lamb (musician), Charles M. Marsh, Horatio P. Marshall, Peter McArdle, George Morgan, Albert S. Marsh, George Mann, Thomas Nolan, Martin Procter, Thomas H. Robinson, George M. Roberts (afterward lieutenant in the Sixtieth Regiment), William C. Sprague, Charles Sanderson, William J. Sprague, Corporal George L. Stone, Thomas S. Snow, Orderly Sergeant Joseph A. Titus, (afterward lieutenant in the Sixtieth Regiment), Charles H. Warren, Corporal Charles H. Woodcock, Eli Wrigglesworth (also in the Twenty-ninth Regiment). Albert M. Goulding, Warren E. Howard and John F. Kibler (first in the Fifty-first Regiment), enlisted in the Forty-second Regiment, in its second term of service for one hundred days.

July 13, 1863, fifty-two men were drafted from Leicester. Some of them paid the commutation fee of three hundred dollars or furnished substitutes, while others were, for various reasons, exempted, so that it is believed that none of them entered the service. This was a time of unusual excitement. The riots in New York and threatening demonstrations in other places encouraged resistance and awakened apprehensions. Whatever of disloyal feeling existed in town then found expression in protests and the encouragement of discontent. Information was received of threats to gain possession of the enrollment list, or burn the office where it was kept. The office was consequently guarded several nights by armed men, and the town, to some extent, patrolled. The danger may have been exaggerated, but the facts illustrate the feverish condition of the public mind at this time.

In November, 1863, the Rev. Mr. Coolidge received leave of absence from his church, and spent about two months with the Army of the Potomac, in the service of the Christian Commission. In all the years of the war the women vied with the men in loyal service. Every call for help met a prompt response, and there were many meetings for sewing and the preparation of hospital supplies, while the children made "comfort bags," furnished with sewing materials, for the convenience of the soldiers. In all this work, Mrs. Billings Swan, whose great regret was that she had not sons who were able to go to the war, was a conspicuous leader.

Mrs. Nelson, wife of the senior pastor of the First Congregational Church, although seventy-five years of age, labored unremittingly, and encouraged others to do the same. She knit one hundred pairs of stockings for the soldiers, and enclosed a note in the hundredth pair to the soldier who should receive it, to which she received an answer.

On the 21st and 22d of February, 1865, a fair was held in the Town Hall. Governor Emory Washburn was president, and made an opening address. The amount realized was $2636.07, which was equally divided between the Sanitary and Christian Commissions and the Freedmen's Aid Society.

In the Massachusetts Fifty-seventh Regiment were James Ackley, wounded at Spotsylvania, first serving in the navy, under Admiral Farragut on the Mississippi River, at the capture of New Orleans; William H. Anthony, shot at the North Anna, and killed by a charge of grape while being carried from the field; Freeman Davis, first in Fifteenth (wounded at Bull's Bluff), killed in the Wilderness; Oliver Gosler, died of wounds near Petersburg; Phineas L. Holbrook, wounded at North Anna; Edward A. Hawes, Emerson B. Lacount, musician; Patrick H. Mann-

ville, enlisted at fifteen years of age, killed at the battle of North Anna; Henry C. Maloney, died in the service; Joseph B. Winch, Sergeant Horace S. Pike, wounded at Petersburg; Jesse S. Scott, principal musician; Charles W. Gleason.

Hiram Streeter was also a member of this regiment. When friends endeavored to dissuade him from leaving his wife and young children, he said: "I have decided that it is my duty to defend my country, if I die in so doing." He enlisted, and after participating in the battles of the Wilderness and North Anna, was killed by a minie ball, before Petersburg, June 17, 1864.

In the Sixtieth Massachusetts Regiment, one hundred days' men, stationed at Indianapolis, were Corporal Alonzo W. Bond, Francis A. Bond, Aaron T. Cutler, Lewis R. Dowse, William Graham, John T. Gough, Lieutenant George R. Roberts, Lieutenant Joseph A. Titus, Henry L. Watson and Alphonso Woodcock.

In the Second Regiment was Edwards D. Farr, wounded in the foot at Cedar Mountain, twenty-four hours on the battle-field; came from it on crutches made with a pen-knife; died of the wound in the Massachusetts General Hospital, where he had suffered amputation. In the Tenth were Silas Bereume, wounded at Fair Oaks, re-enlisted in the First Connecticut Cavalry, taken prisoner at Ashland, in Libby Prison, Andersonville, Savannah and Milan; James E. Bacon, William Conway, who died in the service. In the Eleventh was George McDonald, missing after battle in the Wilderness.

In the Twelfth were the brothers Charles B. Frisbee (in fifteen battles, wounded at Antietam) and Albert Frisbee (in all the engagements of the regiment till taken prisoner at Gettysburg, in prison at Belle Isle, Libby and Andersonville, where he died. Their brother, William, was in an Ohio regiment, and was wounded in Georgia. Lovell P. Winch was in the Thirteenth; John Denny, in the Nineteenth; Henry R. Dawson, in the Twentieth. John Lord was in the Twenty-second, killed at the battle of Chickahominy. Lieutenant John Minor was in the Twenty-eighth; also Jesse Pollard, who was wounded in the second battle of Bull Run, and also at Secessionville, S. C. Eli Wrigglesworth was in the Twenty-ninth. In the Thirtieth were Sergt. Aaron Bowman (in all the battles of the regiment till his death at Baton Rouge, La.), Henry S. Thayer (who died at New Orleans), and James H. Whitney (who died in Mississippi). Captain Thomas Burt was in the Thirty-first; also in a Connecticut regiment; assistant provost marshal at New Orleans. Alexander H. Fairbanks and George E. Sibley were in the Sixty-first, and James H. Knight in the Sixty-second.

George Armitage was in the First Cavalry; Henry J. Biggs in the Second Cavalry, also John Trim, Lewis Gosler, Dennis S. Quinn. In the Third Cavalry, John Crogan, Eugene Eschman; in the Fourth Cavalry, David Dawson, bugler; Thomas Doyle, first in the Fifty-first Infantry, died of wounds at Magnolia, Florida; in the First Frontier Cavalry, Rodney W. Greenleaf.

In the Second Heavy Artillery, James Flannigan, Andrew Stowe, who died at Andersonville, and Charles L. Cummings, also in the Fifty-first Infantry; in the Third Heavy Artillery, John Crogan.

Edward May, paymaster in the naval service. Joseph Doran was also in the naval service.

In addition to those named are the following men who enlisted in the quotas of other places—in what regiments is not known: Dexter Austin, John Brooks, Andrew Clark, John Darling, Charles Fay, Michael Fritz, Patrick Henry, E. Hastings, James Morgan, John L. O'Brien, Owen Rice and Hugh Hopkins.

In addition to those who enlisted from town were men who were purchased as recruits from other places. Some of these are known to have done good service; of others little is known. In the Second Heavy Artillery were William Henry Harrison, James Lowell, Edward McKay, John McDonald, Walter Stone. In the Second Massachusetts Regiment were Richard Lynch, John Maller and Edward Shandley. In the Veteran Reserve Corps, Oliver Santum and Corporal Edward Kendall. In addition to these were Patrick Dowd, of the Fifty-sixth; Alexander H. Fairbanks, of the Sixty-first; Samuel Slater, of the Fifteenth and Twentieth; James Scott, of the Fifty-eighth; James Smith, of the Twenty-seventh; Rodney W. Greenlief, of the First Battalion, Frontier Cavalry, William H. McGregor, also of First Battalion, Frontier Cavalry, and Corporal George H. Lancaster, of the Third Heavy Artillery.

The following is a list of the names of recruits purchased by the town whose designation and history are unknown: Wm. Adams, Lewis L. M. Arnold, Jas. Barnes, Antoine Bownett, Jesse Croslin, Mark Colman, James Delany, Michael Demsey, John Doyle, Eliakim H. Eaton, Jas. Edmanson, Joshua H. Eldridge, Jno. F. Farrell, Henry Hastings, John F. Kenniston (unassigned recruit), James Leary, John L. Labene, William H. Leighton, Cornelius Leary, David G. Lambert, John Lee, Albert L. Loud, John Lindsey, Geo. S. Little, Wm. J. Lord, Patrick Lynch, Edw. L. Limminson, Stephen Lynch, John Lindsey, John Mullen, James Miller, Shubal Mayo, John Mooset, Sawney Nelson, William Ottevall, Owen Rice, Wm. Reese, Owen Smith, Henry Stewart, Samuel Stewart, Samuel Taylor, Edward Vaughn, George Varnum, Charles Vose, Edward Cottey, George Donnelly, Thomas Graves, Martin McBride, Osear B. Phelps.

Eleven of the recruits are recorded as deserters. Their names are omitted from the roll of honor. With all the pains taken to make the list of soldiers complete, there are doubtless inevitable omissions.

The highest rank to which a soldier attained in the service is given in the lists. Some enlisted for other towns. The number of battles in which a soldier

was engaged in [illegible] others it is unknown.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the town furnished three hundred and twenty men for the war, of whom two hundred and forty-eight were in three years' regiments. Six were commissioned officers. Dr. John N. Murdoek and T. E. Woodcock furnished substitutes. The military expenses of the town were $42,653.28, of which $12,383 were, however, for State aid. A league of enrolled men was organized in the summer of 1864, which raised $4,400 for the purchase of recruits, and $2,960 were raised by citizens not liable to a draft.

Considerable sums were also raised for the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. Throughout the entire war the women were untiring in their interest and labors for the relief of the suffering soldiers.

The names of Leicester men are on the rolls of twenty-eight Massachusetts regiments, and others enlisted in other States and in the regular army. At least thirty-three died in the service; eleven were in Rebel prisons, of whom seven died. The sons of Leicester were in over a hundred battles.

The premature announcement of General Lee's surrender occasioned such a thrill of joy as had not been experienced since the close of the Revolutionary War. The bells were rung, cannons were fired, and responses were heard from surrounding towns. News of the actual surrender arrived on the morning of the 10th of April, and was followed by the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells, and in the evening by the playing of the band and a general illumination. The terrible revulsion came on the 15th, with the tidings of the assassination of President Lincoln. The feeling here, as elsewhere, was intense; every other interest was forgotten, business was suspended, the bells were tolled during the afternoon, and ministers laid aside their preparation for the next day, unable on that memorable Sabbath to speak upon any other theme than that which alone interested the people. On the day of the funeral the bells were tolled and services, attended by people from all parts of town, were held in the First Church. "It was a large, sad audience."

During the morning service, on the 14th of May, a message was brought to the church containing the news of Jefferson Davis' capture, and the welcome fact was announced from the pulpit.

CHAPTER VIII.

LEICESTER—(*Continued.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

Individuals and Residences—Physicians—Lawyers—Items of Interest—Burying-Grounds—Post-Offices—Fire Department—Taverns—Libraries—Cherry Valley Flood—Histories—Celebrations.

Individuals and Residences.—In a sketch so brief as this there can be special mention of only a few of the many persons who are worthy of such notice. To some of these reference has been made in other connections.

The Earle families generally resided in the northeast part of the town, where they erected substantial homes, some of which are still an ornament to that neighborhood. They were so numerous that in 1812, when Rev. Dr. Nelson visited the Northeast School on examination day, he found that of the forty pupils present, twenty-one were grandchildren of "Uncle Robert" and "Aunt Sarah" Earle. Ralph Earle, the ancestor of the Leicester Earles, came to town in 1717 from Freetown, Mass. He became a large landowner and the head of a family, members of which, in their different generations, have had more than a local reputation. Among these, Ralph, his great-grandson, takes special rank as an artist. He made full-length portraits of Dr. Dwight, of Yale College, and others in Connecticut, and portraits of "many of the nobility and some of the royal family" of England. For a time he was under the instruction of Benjamin West in London, and he was made a member of the Royal Academy in that city. He painted the battle of Lexington and other battle-scenes of the early period of the Revolution, which were engraved. He has the distinction of being the first historical painter of America. A landscape view of Worcester, taken from Denny Hill, is now in the possession of Deacon C. C. Denny. His brother, James Earle, was also a painter of "considerable eminence." He was married in London, but died in Charleston, S. C., on a visit to America. Thomas Earle, grandson of the Ralph who came to Leicester, was a mechanic of remarkable skill. His home was on Bald Hill, in Cherry Valley, opposite Olney's factory. He planted rows of sycamores in front of his house on the day of the battle of Lexington, three of which are still standing. A musket of superior quality and beautiful finish, which he made for Col. William Henshaw, is preserved in good condition. Gen. Washington so much admired it that he ordered one like it for himself. Mr. Earle made the gun with great care, and when it was completed he loaded and primed it, placed it under water to the muzzle over night, and in the morning discharged it at the first pull of the trigger. He afterward shouldered it and carried it on foot to General Washington in New York.

Thomas Earle, the son of Pliny, born in Leicester and educated at the academy, was, in 1840, candidate of the Liberty party for Vice-President, with James G. Birney. He was an able editor and an influential writer in opposition to slavery. His home was in Philadelphia. He is described as "a man of powerful intellect," "enlarged views," "of warm and generous impulses," "a philanthropist whom oppression could not swerve; a politician whom politics could not corrupt; 'and a Christian whom sect could not circumscribe.'" Notices of other members of this family will be found in the History of Worcester.

The Henshaw place, northeast of Henshaw Pond, at first called Judge's Pond, was owned, and the house first built, by Judge John Menzies, who came from Roxbury in 1720. He was from Scotland, a member of the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, and was appointed judge of the Court of Admiralty of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. He was the first representative of the town to the General Court.

The place was afterward owned by Judge Thomas Steele, who has already been mentioned. After the Revolutionary War it came into the Henshaw family, where it has remained. Captain David Henshaw purchased it in 1782. Still later it was the home of Hon. David Henshaw. He was appointed collector of the port of Boston, by President Andrew Jackson, in 1829, and served with great credit to himself and advantage to the department. He was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President John Tyler, served for a short time, but his appointment was not confirmed by the Senate, which was of the opposite political party.

The mansion-house on Mount Pleasant was built in 1772 by Joseph Henshaw, who also gave to the hill its name.[1] He was a graduate of Harvard, in 1748. His connection with early Revolutionary events has already been referred to. He was a man of wealth, and loaned to the government, in its time of need, at least a hundred thousand dollars. At this house he took the mail from the courier, before the establishment of a post-office here. In 1795 the place came into the hands of James Swan, who fitted up the house and grounds in a style of magnificence far surpassing anything in this region. His wealth was supposed to be immense. After a few years, reverses came upon him, he retired to France, and in 1830 reappears upon the opening of the Debtor's Prison, in Paris, as one who was set free, after occupying the same room thirty-two years and one day.

Daniel Denny, from whom descended all of that name in town, came from Combs, Suffolk County, England, to Boston in 1715, and removed to Leicester in 1717. The prominent position of the members of this family, in connection with town and national affairs, has already been indicated.

Deborah, the sister of Daniel Denny, was the wife of Rev. Thomas Prince, D.D., of the Old South Church, Boston. Colonel Samuel Denny lived on Moose Hill; he was lieutenant-colonel of the minutemen and colonel of the First Worcester County Regiment, a member of the General Court, and of the convention to ratify the National Constitution.

St. John Honeywood, son of Dr. John Honeywood, graduated with high honors at Yale in 1782, was a lawyer in Salem, N. Y., and one of the electors for John Adams. He died at the age of thirty-four. Says Washburn: "He gave early evidence of having been endowed by nature with the eye of a painter and the sensibility of a poet." A posthumous volume of his poems was published in 1801.

Colonel Henry Sargent was one of the wealthy and prominent men of the town, honored with civil and military office. Two of his sons were physicians in Worcester. Dr. Henry Sargent died in 1857. Dr. Jos. Sargent died in 1888, after a long practice in the profession, in which he held high rank. The Sargent family has been one of standing in the town, and other members are elsewhere noticed.

The Green family came from Malden, and were at one time the most numerous in town. Members of this family have been already noticed in connection with the early history of the town. The Southgate family were from England, and have also been prominently identified with the town's history.

The large residence east of the Common was built by Joshua Clapp, the enterprising and generous Clappville manufacturer. Mr. Denny, in his "Reminiscenses," says of him that he was "a decided and active temperance man in the early days of the reform." In 1836 he bought the hotel in the Centre village, and converted it into a temperance house. Mrs. Ellen E. Flint afterwards owned the Clapp place for many years. She was a woman of strong character, benevolent and public-spirited. She built the massive walls which have given to the place the name of "Stonewall Farm." The place, some time after her death, came into the hands of Dr. Horace P. Wakefield, who resided there several years. It was then purchased by Hon. Samuel Winslow, mayor of Worcester, remodeled and much enlarged, and is now the residence of his son, Samuel E. Winslow.

Phineas Bruce was elected to Congress in 1803, but never took his seat.

Hon. William Upham was educated at the academy; was district judge in Vermont, and United States Senator.

Hon. Joseph Allen was a member of the House of Representatives; also Hon. John E. Russell, elected in 1886.

Three persons at least, in Leicester have lived to a remarkable age. Elihu Emerson was born in Westfield, Mass., July 21, 1771. He resided for many years in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Dr. Edward Flint, where he died, October 31, 1873, at the age of one hundred and two years, three months and ten days.

Ebenezer Dunbar was born March 29, 1777, in Leicester, where he always resided. He died November

[1] Not Lewis Allen, as Washburn states

4, 1877, and was thus one hundred years, seven months and six days old.

Mrs. Lydia Watson, the widow of Mr. Robert Watson, was born in Leicester, January 5, 1787. She died in Leicester, where her whole life was spent, April 11, 1889, at the age of one hundred and two years, three months and six days.

Physicians.— The first physician in Leicester was Dr. Thomas Green, already noticed as the first pastor of the Baptist Church in Greenville.

Dr. Pliny Lawton taught school in 1748 and 1749 and was then called "Doctor." He died in 1761, of small-pox, which he contracted while in the courageous discharge of his duty, and was buried in his own field.

Dr. John Honeywood was in practice here in 1753. He was an Englishman and his interest in the early Revolutionary movements, and his death while serving in the American army, have been already noticed. He was a well-educated and skillful physician.

Dr. Solomon Parsons, son of Rev. David Parsons, school teacher in 1751, was born April 18, 1726, and and died March 20, 1807. His wife died the same year as Dr. Lawton, of small-pox, and he was under the necessity of burying her alone, by night. He is supposed to have been a surgeon in the army in 1761.

Dr. Isaac Green, son of Dr. Thomas Green, was born in 1741, and died in 1812. He was surgeon in Col. Samuel Denny's regiment in 1777, and was at Saratoga at the taking of Burgoyne.

Dr. Edward Rawson was born in Mendon, in 1754, and died in 1786.

Dr. Absolom Russell practiced here a few years, and was a surgeon in the Revolutionary army.

Dr. Robert Craige, Dr. Jeremiah Larned and Dr. Thomas Hersey were in practice in town during the last half of the last century, and also Dr. Thaddeus Brown.

The most eminent physician of the town, after Dr. Thomas Green, was Dr. Austin Flint. He was born in Shrewsbury, January, 1760; came to Leicester in 1783, and died August 29, 1850. He is characterized by Gov. Washburn as "an intelligent, well-informed man, of strong will and indomitable courage;" of "affable manners" and with a "rich fund of anecdote and good sense." He entered the army at the age of seventeen, and his record in the Revolution and the "Shays' Rebellion" has already been given. He was for twenty successive years moderator of town-meeting, for fifteen years town clerk, for sixteen years trustee of the academy, for about thirty years a magistrate, and for five years a Representative in the Legislature. He not only practiced throughout the town, but also in other towns. He kept a record of the births at which he rendered professional aid. The number is 1750. His wife (Elizabeth) was the daughter of Col. William Henshaw.

Dr. Edward Flint, his son, elsewhere noticed, began practice here in 1811.

Dr. Ames Walbridge came to Greenville about the year 1830, and died there July 30, 1867, at the age of seventy-five.

Dr. Jacob Holmes was a physician in Leicester from 1834 to 1847. Rev. Isaac Worcester, M. D., who married the daughter of Colonel Henry Sargent, was for a short time in practice here, as were also Dr. C. D. Whitcomb, and Dr. James P. C. Cummings and Dr. E. A. Daggett, who was followed by Dr. John P. Scribner. Dr. George O. Warner came to Leicester in 1866, and remained until his death, November 12, 1885, at the age of forty-six. He gained a very extensive practice throughout the entire town and region. He was for a short time an army surgeon. He was kind and sympathetic, and his death was universally lamented.

The present physicians of the centre are Fred H. Gifford, who was graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1874, and began practice in Leicester in 1879; Dr. Charles H. Warner, graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1870, commencing practice in Leicester in 1885; and Dr. Charles G. Stearns, graduated from Amherst College in 1874 and from the Harvard Medical School in 1881, and commencing practice here in the winter of 1885. Dr. Leonard W. Atkinson was graduated from Boston University Medical School in 1884, and began practice in Cherry Valley in 1885.

Lawyers.— Christopher J. Lawton came to Leicester in 1735, and practiced until 1751.

Hon. Nathaniel Paine Denny was graduated from Harvard, 1797, settled in Leicester in 1800, practiced for twenty years, and represented the town in the Legislature ten years.

Bradford Sumner was graduated from Brown University, 1808, came to Leicester 1813, and practiced until 1820.

David Brigham was graduated from Harvard, 1810, came to Leicester in 1817, and practiced here a little more than two years.

Daniel Knight was graduated from Brown University, in 1813, and came to Leicester, 1821.

Emory Washburn was graduated from Williams College in 1817, and practiced in Leicester from 1821 to 1828.

Waldo Flint was graduated from Harvard in 1814, and came to Leicester in 1828. He was afterward for many years president of the Eagle Bank, Boston.

Silas Jones succeeded Mr. Flint, but only practiced for a short time.

Henry Oliver Smith, a native of Leicester, was graduated from Amherst in 1863, and since 1866 has practiced in Leicester.

Items of Interest.— A few items of interest from Washburn's History, and other sources, are added here. The first public conveyance for passengers was the line of "stage wagons" between Boston and Hartford, opened October 20, 1783, by Levy Pease, of Somers, Conn., and Reuben Sikes, of Hartford. Before this the mails were carried on horseback.

There are persons now living who remember to have seen sixteen stage-coaches at one time around the tavern on Leicester Hill. In the last century two huge horse-blocks near the meeting-house and the public stocks were conspicuous objects on the Common. The last "pillory" was built in 1763, for thirteen shillings, by Benjamin Tucker. George Washington, on his journey to Boston in 1789, passed through Leicester October 22d, and met a delegation of gentlemen from Worcester on the line between the two towns. Lafayettte, on the 3d of September, 1824, passed through the south part of the town "attended by a troop of horse and an escort of military officers, citizens, etc."

Colonel Thomas Denny introduced the first piano to the town about the year 1809. The second belonged to the daughter of Captain John Southgate a few years later. The first carpet in town was woven by Mrs. David Bryant early in the present century.

In the first quarter of the present century there was in the Centre Village a literary association composed of the younger women, which met from house to house, and is represented to have had a brilliant success. Some of the productions of its members found a place in the *Worcester Spy*, among the "Blossoms of Parnassus." "History," says Washburn, "can only record the fact that it once existed, flourished many years and disappeared." It has had, however, many successors.

Burying-Grounds.—The first burying-ground in town was the church-yard back of the early meeting-house, which was surrounded by a brush fence. It dates back to 1714. The Greenville Cemetery was opened about the year 1736; the Elliott Burying-yard, in the north part of the town, in 1756. The burying-ground of the Friends at Mannville was in existence as early as 1739. The Rawson Brook Cemetery dates back to 1755, and the Cherry Valley Cemetery was opened in 1816, and the Pine Grove in 1842. In these several burying-places have been laid about 2800 bodies. The number of deaths in town since 1800, recorded on the town books and elsewhere, is 3469. In the first decade there are 98, in the second, 150; in the third, 193; in the fourth, 265; in the fifth, 324; in the sixth, 431; in the seventh, 474; in the eighth, 552; from 1880 to 1887, 451. These facts are from the record of C. C. Denny, Esq., who has made a careful investigation and study of the subject.

Post-Offices.—A post-office was established in Leicester about 1798, and Ebenezer Adams, Esq., was the first commissioned postmaster. He was succeeded by Col. Thomas Denny, Col. Henry Sargent, John Sargent (appointed April, 1829), Henry D. Hatch, L. D. Thurston, the present incumbent appointed.

The post-office in Rochdale was established in 1824, and Rev. Joseph Muenscher was the first postmaster.

The post-office in Cherry Valley was established in 1859, with Harvey Painter, postmaster.

Fire Department.—The date of procuring the little engine upon which the town depended many years for extinguishing fires is not known. A fire-engine, called "Union No 2," was purchased in 1841, partly by the town and partly by individual subscriptions. It came to town April 20th. A steam fire-engine was bought in 1869, and in 1886 it was replaced by the present steam-engine. In 1885 a steamer was obtained for Cherry Valley, and chemical extinguishers for Rochdale and Greenville.

Taverns.—The first tavern was on the corner of Main and Paxton Streets. It was occupied by Nathaniel Richardson in 1721, John Tyler 1746, John Tyler, Jr., 1755, Seth Washburn 1756, then by John Tyler, by Benjamin Tucker 1761, Edward Bond 1767. It was then burnt and rebuilt, occupied by Elijah Lathrop 1776, Peter Taft 1778, Reuben Swan 1781, William Denny 1801, Aaron Morse 1810.

The second tavern was opposite the Catholic Church, built by Jonathan Sargent as early as 1727. He was succeeded by his son Phineas, and he in 1776 by Nathan Waite.

James Smith had a tavern in the last house in Leicester, on the road to Spencer, in 1740. He was followed by Samuel Lynde in 1755; the house was destroyed by the hurricane in 1759.

Phineas Newhall built in 1776 a tavern on the Hartnuck Road, where the last house in Leicester stands, which was open for many years.

The first tavern on the site of Leicester Hotel, opposite the Common, was built in 1776, by Nathan Waite. Jacob Reed Rivera, the Jew, bought it for his store in 1777. Here a hotel has been kept by successive landlords to the present time. Among these was John Hobert, who had charge of it from 1799 to 1817, and gave to it a wide-spread reputation as an excellent hostelry. In later years, notwithstanding the growth of the temperance sentiment in town, this hotel continued to defy the public will. It at length became so intolerable a nuisance that it was purchased by a company of citizens and closed. In 1882 it was burnt. In 1885 this company built the present Leicester Hotel, which has since been kept by L. G. Joslin, and has become a favorite resort for "summer boarders." During the Revolution Abner Dunbar had a tavern on Mount Pleasant (Benjamin Earle place), and George Bruce about the beginning of this century kept public-house on Mount Pleasant, in the residence before occupied by Major James Swan.

Samuel Green had a tavern in Greenville. The Rochdale Hotel was built by Samuel Stone about 1810, and was first kept by Hezekiah Stone.

Libraries.—In 1793 provision was made for a "Social Library," the "Proprietors" first meeting December 10th. The fire-engine company established a library in 1812. A "Second Social Library" was commenced in 1829. These several libraries had fallen into disuse, but in 1858, by the efforts of the writer, they were united, and removed to one of the rooms of the Town House, and again opened for cir-

culation. This library, containing about eight hundred and fifty volumes, was, in 1861, offered to the town, and at the town-meeting held March 4, 1861, was unanimously accepted. The library has gradually increased, and in February, 1888, the number of volumes was six thousand two hundred and twenty-eight. There are branch libraries at Rochdale, Greenville and Cherry Valley, and the books are largely used in all parts of the town. The library has received donations of books from many individuals. Among these should be especially mentioned Waldo Flint, Esq., who gave to it nearly three hundred and fifty volumes. Over five hundred volumes from his own library came to it after his death. The library is also indebted to the interest and liberality of Abraham Firth, Esq. Mrs. E. H. Flint, Governor Washburn and many others have been its generous friends. But the library is most of all indebted to Rev. Samuel May for his long-continued devotion and services. He has taken upon himself as a free-will service the arrangement and care of books, the preparation and publishing of catalogues, and the general supervision of the library. The management of the library is committed to a Board of Directors consisting of five members, one of whom is annually chosen to serve five years. On the 13th and 14th days of January, 1873, the library was placed in the new "Memorial Hall," an attractive room in the Town House. It has already nearly outgrown these accommodations, and waits the time when wealthy and generous friends shall make provision for a library building. D. E. Merriam, who died in 1888, left toward this object $5,000.

Cherry Valley Flood.—On March 29th, 1876, the dam of Lynde Brook Reservoir, the water supply of Worcester, gave signs of weakness. The water ~~surface~~ of the lake is 1870 acres and there were in it at the time 663,330,000 gallons of water. There had been heavy rains. Four days before one of the series of dams on the Kettle Brook, into which Lynde Brook empties, gave way, occasioning great damage to roads and bridges and flooding a part of Cherry Valley. The water of Lynde Reservoir was at the time running over the flash-boards, twenty-seven inches higher than the dam. A leakage at the lower waste-gate house showed signs of increase, and this was the signal of danger.

Strenuous efforts were made through this and the next day to save the dam, or at least hold it in place till the waters could gradually escape. Loads of earth and stone and large trees were thrown in above the dam. Meanwhile the alarm was given to families along the stream. Dwelling-houses were deserted, mill property was removed to the hill-sides and crowds of people stood upon the banks awaiting the result. The dam stood through the day and night and through the next day, and it was hoped that the calamity might be averted. All through the night and the next day the anxious watch continued. At about ten minutes before six, in the afternoon of Thursday, March 30th, a little stream of water broke out above the lower gate-house. The alarm was given; the dam was cleared of men and teams. The stream enlarged each second, earth and stones were thrown up, the bank of the dam caved in, the stone wall stood for a minute and then gave way, and the reservoir poured its contents into the channel below. The scene is described by many who witnessed it as grand beyond description. The water came rushing and roaring down the course of the brook, tearing out a gorge a hundred feet in width and carrying the solid masonry far down the stream. Those who were in Cherry Valley could hear the grating of the rocks ground together by the force of the waters. As it passed down the ravine its appearance was grandly beautiful. The water, nearly fifty feet in height, came surging, seething, rolling on, lashed into foam, a white feathery vapor rising above it. When it reached the street it tore away the bridge and roadway and then spread out over the meadow, converting the lower parts of the village into a sea, and then at Smith's dam was forced through the narrow passage. It passed through the centre of Mr. Olney's house, leaving the walls standing. The barn and carriage-house were separated and then floated out gracefully on the water, only to be wrecked when they reached the rocks below. Several tenement houses were destroyed. The flood tore away most of Smith's factory, annihilated Bottomly's mill and carried away the rear of the several factories along the stream and the dams; it wrenched away the boiler of Ashworth & Jones' mill and deposited it half a mile below, and swept away the engine and boiler of Smith's mill so that they were never found. At the corner of the Jamesville Road and Main Street it struck the bank, and became a whirlpool as it turned southerly to Jamesville, where it was divided. A part of the flood followed the stream, inflicting damage upon the dam and factory. The other part followed the Boston & Albany Railroad for nearly two miles, gullying out the track and destroying the double arch bridge. The scene after the flood was one of wild desolation, the fields and meadows being covered with boulders and the *débris*. The spot was visited by thousands of people during the next few days, some of them coming from a distance. The estimated number on one day was thirty thousand.

Histories.—Leicester is unusually rich in annalists and historians. First among these is Governor Emory Washburn, to whose "Topographical and Historical Sketches of the Town of Leicester," published June, 1826, in the *Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal*, his "Brief Sketch of the History of Leicester Academy," published in 1855, his several addresses on anniversary occasions, and his "History of Leicester," published in 1860, the town is indebted for the collection and preservation of the facts of its early history. In the preparation of his history he was



Edmund Flint

more largely than is generally known indebted to Jos. A. Denny, Esq., who gathered much of this information, and whose "Reminiscences of Leicester," published about fourteen years ago in the *Worcester Spy*, whose history of the schools, published in the School Report of 1849, whose various compilations from the Town Records, whose identification of locations, and whose personal journal, covering a period of eighteen years, including that of the Civil War, entitle him to the distinction of the annalist of Leicester. Miss Harriet E. Henshaw in 1876 published "Reminiscences of Colonel William Henshaw," which are rich in interesting and curious information relating to the Revolutionary period. Not only local, but other historians are indebted to her rich stores of ancient manuscripts, including the Orderly Books of Colonel William Henshaw, Adjutant-General of the Provincial Army, containing the official records of the Revolutionary army during the first year of the war, letters of the Committee of Correspondence, and other documents of inestimable historical value. Draper's "History of Spencer" and Whitney's "History of Worcester County" are also sources from which light is also thrown upon the early history of the town. The academy has also had its historians. A brief but valuable sketch was published in 1829 in connection with Principal Preceptor Luther Wright's address. Rev. S. May, in the "Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity," 1882, has a paper on the academy. Governor Washburn's history, and the address of Hon. W. W. Rice at the centennial anniversary of the institution, are both of them the result of much careful research. The historical sermon of Rev. B. F. Cooley, at the fiftieth anniversary of Christ Church, Rochdale, and "The Religious History of the First Congregational Church in Leicester," by Rev. A. H. Coolidge, have also been published. To these sources of information is to be added the historical sermon of Rev. Hiram Estes, D.D., at the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Baptist Church in Greenville. The manuscript journal of Ruth Henshaw, reaching back into the last century, gives an insight into the life of the early times, and serves to verify some of the facts and dates of history. The letters of Grace Denny, of England, published in the "Genealogy of the Denny Family," prepared by C. C. Denny, Esq., are of special interest, referring as they do to the situation of the place soon after its settlement.

CELEBRATIONS.—In addition to celebrations in town which have been noticed in other connections, are others of an interesting character. The four towns, Leicester, Spencer, Paxton and Auburn, which wholly or in part were embraced in the original township, united in celebration on the 4th of July, 1849, in the grove, on Grove Street. Hon. James Draper, of Spencer, presided. More than two thousand persons were present. The citizens of Spencer, preceded by the fire company, were escorted into the village, under the direction of Henry A. Denny as chief marshal, by the Leicester Fire Company, with the Northbridge Band. Four Revolutionary soldiers were honored guests. The address was by Hon. Emory Washburn, and is a valuable contribution to the Revolutionary history of the towns. Rev. Dr. Nelson was chaplain. Among the after-dinner addresses was that of Hon. Joseph Sprague, ex-mayor of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The 4th of July, 1871, was chosen as the date of celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the town by the several towns of the original township. The exercises were in a large tent on the Common. Rev. S. May, in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, introduced the exercises of the morning, which consisted of music by the Worcester Band, singing, prayer by the chaplain, Rev. A. H. Coolidge, and a learned and eloquent historical address by Governor Emory Washburn. About eight hundred sons and daughters of Leicester sat down at the tables, Capt. J. D. Cogswell as marshal having charge of the arrangements. Jos. A. Denny, Esq., as president of the day, introduced the after-dinner exercises, Dr. J. N. Murdock acting as toast-master. Addresses were made by Hon. Waldo Flint, Abraham Firth, Esq., Hon. Edward Earle, Gen. E. F. Jones, Hon. N. Sargent and others.

In 1876 the towns again united and celebrated the centennial of the Declaration of Independence. The morning exercises were in the town hall, and Rev. S. May was president of the day. John E. Russell, Esq., delivered an eloquent address. The singing was under the direction of Mr. Thomas S. Livermore, and the music by the Leicester Cornet Band. The company then moved in procession, under Capt. J. D. Cogswell as marshal, to Sargent's Grove, where after-dinner addresses were made by the several clergymen, teachers of the academy and others.

The principal addresses on all these occasions have been published, and are invaluable sources of important and interesting local and general history.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

DR. EDWARD FLINT.[1]

Dr. Edward Flint belonged to a family of physicians. His grandfather, Dr. Edward Flint, of Shrewsbury, was the physician of that town during a long life. His father, Dr. Austin Flint, born in Shrewsbury, established himself in Leicester in 1783, at the close of the War of the Revolution, in which he had been an army surgeon, lived here a long and honored life, professionally eminent, and died at over ninety years of age. His elder brother was Dr. Joseph H.

[1] By Rev. Samuel May.

Flint, of Northampton and Springfield, whose son Austin became distinguished in New York, both in practice and as a medical author; and who left a son, also named Austin, as successor to his labors and honors. Dr. John Flint, of Boston, was a cousin, and studied medicine with him. And his only son, John Sydenham Flint, was a physician for some forty years in Roxbury, held in the highest esteem there, and died in April, 1887.

Dr. Edward Flint, second son of Dr. Austin and Elizabeth (Henshaw) Flint, of Leicester, was born November 7, 1789. He studied medicine with his father, and established himself in its practice in Leicester in 1811. Six years later he was married to Harriet, eldest daughter of Elihu Emerson, Esq., of Norwich, Vt. Soon after marriage he built the house in the centre of the town which he occupied during life, and where his widow now resides in her ninety-first year. Dr. Flint died May 30, 1880, being, like his father, a few months over ninety years of age. Three children was born to them—Charlotte Emerson, Sally, and John Sydenham. The daughters were very excellent and attractive young women, but they both died in early womanhood. Their loss severely tried Dr. Flint's faith and firmness; but no murmur escaped him. Seven years after his own death, his only son died, as already stated, and the mother is now left childless, but is ministered to, in her age and many infirmities, with unsurpassed devotedness.

Dr. Flint succeeded to his father's large practice, which extended beyond the town limits. He gave his life, in the strictest sense, to his profession, and to those who needed his services, making no discrimination among those who were able and those who were not able to pay him for that service. It was a life uneventful, but steadily laborious, and attended with frequent exposures. A physician has peculiar opportunity to render charitable service, and Dr. Flint had his full share of such experience; and as he had a great repugnance to pressing the collection of debts due him, it followed that an unusual amount of such indebtedness was never paid. A recent writer in a *Health Journal* says: "It is safe to say that but few physicians in general practice manage to collect more than one-half of their bills," and enlarges upon the wrong thus done. Cases of destitution will always occur, and our physicians may be safely trusted not to forget them; but it should cease to be thought allowable for others to use a doctor's time and services without compensation. Attempts, on various grounds, were made to introduce other physicians to the town, but the general respect and confidence of Leicester people were never withdrawn from Dr. Flint. Washburn, in his "History of Leicester," says of him: "The rank and position which Dr. Flint sustains in the community have been the natural result of the many years of honorable and successful pursuit of the profession of his choice."

He was a life-long friend of temperance. When his house was built—which was before the day of temperance societies—he induced the workmen to give up the customary strong drink, and he furnished them hot coffee in its place, which Mrs. Flint daily made for them. He never permitted wine or strong drinks to be placed on his table, nor offered to visitors, and never used them himself. He told the present writer that he had an early lesson on the subject, in seeing his father always pass the mug or glass untasted, as it went the rounds among the neighbors collected at some public place. His horses and his dogs were more than his servants: they were his friends and he was theirs. He had a quaint humor, with a somewhat rough manner, in both respects resembling his father. When a boy he one day brought from the post-office to his father a small packet; his father, on opening it, said, "Here, Ned, take off your jacket," which being done, the father rolled up the boy's sleeve, and with no further notice made an incision in his arm and inserted some vaccine matter, and thus, as he always claimed, he became, with little previous notice, the first subject of vaccination in the town of Leicester.

DEA. JOSHUA MURDOCK.[1]

The older readers of this history will be glad to recognize in the accompanying engraving the likeness of Dea. Joshua Murdock. He was the son of William and Achsah Murdock, and was born in Westminster, Mass., October 28, 1780. He served a regular apprenticeship as cabinet-maker to Artemas Woodward, of Medfield, Mass. He was united in marriage with Clarissa Hartshorn, of Medfield, June 3, 1806, and soon removed to West Boylston, and, with his brother Artemas, began the business of cabinet-making. In 1811 he came to Leicester and purchased the place still owned by the family. His cabinet shop was east of the house. Here he carried on the business for many years, employing a number of hands. He was in every sense a master-workman. The products of his skill were at once thorough and elegant, and many highly valued and beautiful specimens are still retained in various families in the vicinity.

In 1833, and again in 1834, the town expressed its appreciation of him by electing him to the House of Representatives in the Legislature of the State. He was for many years treasurer of the First Parish, first elected when the affairs of the parish were managed by the town, through the selectmen. He was also trustee of the invested funds of the church and parish to the time of his death. He was made deacon of the church January 7, 1817, and retained the office through life. He was the first superintendent of the Sunday-school, and held that office, as nearly as can be ascertained, more than twenty-five years.

In April, 1812, he with his wife united with the First Congregational Church—the first persons to make

[1] By A. H. Coolidge.



Joshua Murdock





a public profession of faith after the settlement of Dr. Nelson, the month before. He possessed a singularly even and benign spirit, sweetened by genuine piety. He was always very modest and retiring, yet he cheerfully accepted the cares and responsibilities of his office in the church, and was always heard with interest and pleasure in the several meetings of the church. The writer remembers him with the deepest respect and tenderness as one of the truest, most helpful and sympathetic of his friends in the first years of his ministry.

He died suddenly, in his shop, December 30, 1859. A memorial sermon was preached by the junior pastor, January 8, 1860, from Prov. 20: 6—"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?"

JOSEPH A. DENNY, ESQ.[1]

Joseph Addison Denny was the grandson of Daniel Denny, who settled in Leicester in the spring of 1717. He was one of the twelve children of Joseph Denny. His mother, Phœbe Denny, was the daughter of Col. William Henshaw.

He was born May 13, 1804, and passed his early childhood in the house on Main Street now owned by the family of the late John Loring. His mother died when he was eleven years old. About two years later he left home and was a clerk in the store of H. G. Henshaw, Esq., in New Worcester, for two or three years. He then returned home, and attended school at Leicester Academy for several terms. About the year 1823 he was engaged as a clerk in the store of James & John A. Smith, in a building west of the Leicester Hotel. There he remained until 1826, when he commenced the manufacture of card-clothing, which he continued until 1857.

He was a diligent and intelligent student, and productions of his pen at this period, which are still preserved, indicate unusual thoughtfulness as well as literary taste. He early formed the determination of making his life a success in the truest sense. He even gave up the games and other amusements in which many of the young were absorbed, that he might secure his evenings for useful reading. When he reached the age of twenty-one years he wrote a series of resolutions for "future guidance." These resolutions are indicative of his early purpose, as well as of his later character. Among them are the resolutions to abstain from the use of "ardent spirits," gambling and profane language. The platform of business principles which he then adopted is worthy of the consideration of the young, and is given in his own words: "Resolved, That if frugality and application to business will ensure me a competency of wealth, I will never be poor. That, while I have my health, I will never spend faster than I earn, and on the contrary, while I have a sufficiency, I will never deny myself the conveniences of life for the purpose of hoarding up treasure. That, while I am prospered in business, I will never refuse charity, where I think it my duty to extend it. And should I ever accumulate property, may I have the satisfaction of reflecting that it was not obtained by oppressing the poor, unfair dealing or any other dishonorable means, and may a bountiful Providence prosper my undertakings."

In the year 1826 he entered the firm of Isaac Southgate & Co., which, as has already been stated, developed into that of Bisco & Denny. It was in the beginning a small enterprise. The pricking and tooth-forming machines were moved by hand, and the cards sent out to be set by women and children. The business increased gradually, and prospered so that by careful attention to its details he secured a competence.

He was also largely interested in the establishment of the Leicester Boot Company. He was a prominent director and valued adviser in the State Mutual Life Assurance, and the Merchants' and Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Companies in Worcester, from the date of their organization to the time of his death. He was a director and for a time the president of the Leicester Bank. He was assistant assessor in the Internal Revenue Department during and after the war. He served the town as selectman and School Committee, and from March, 1850, to the time of his death, in 1875, was town clerk. He was, in 1857, elected to the House of Representatives in the Legislature of the State. His services for the academy, to whose interest he was earnestly devoted, were invaluable. He was a trustee from August 20, 1834, and treasurer from May 11, 1853, till his death, in 1875. He gave to this institution his personal services, and contributed liberally to its funds; and it was through his influence that most of its present endowment was secured. With many of the former pupils of this institution the thought of Leicester Academy and Joseph A. Denny are inseparable. His portrait has a place with the founders and benefactors of the academy in Smith Hall. Mr. Denny was a man of literary tastes, and spent much time in reading, thus familiarizing himself with history and the best literature.

He at different times traveled in various parts of the country, and had a comprehensive appreciation alike of its resources and its need. He took special pains to familiarize himself with statute law. He wrote legal documents, and had charge of pecuniary trusts, and settled estates. He wrote many wills, and often, by wise suggestion, impressed upon men in the disposal of their property the importance of making liberal provision for their wives, a consideration which is too often found overlooked. Although never admitted to the bar, he was still a legal adviser, consulted by people of his own and neighboring towns. This service was to a large extent gra-

[1] By Rev. A. H. Coolidge.

tuitous. He was pre-eminently the friend and helper of widows and orphans, and of the poor. Men and women of all classes and different nationalities resorted to him for counsel and help. They came to him with their quarrels, their business perplexities, their financial troubles, their plans and enterprises and their sorrows; and found in him an attentive listener, a sound adviser, a generous helper and a sympathizing friend. He was, perhaps, more than any other person, familiar with the locations and history of Leicester and the lives of its former inhabitants; and to him, more largely than is generally known, Gov. Emory Washburn was indebted for the materials of his excellent history of the town. His manuscript notes, his "Reminiscences of Leicester," published in the *Worcester Spy*, and his journal which is a record of passing events, are of great historical value. He may be truthfully termed the annalist of Leicester.

In 1874 he made a tour of Europe, which was a source of great profit and enjoyment to so intelligent and appreciative an observer. He was especially interested in visiting the home of his ancestors and his relatives in England.

He united with the First Congregational Church in July, 1827, and through life was one of its devoted and helpful members and a constant attendant upon all its services. He was, for many years and at the time of his death, a teacher in the Sunday-school. He was interested in the great missionary enterprises, both home and foreign, and contributed liberally to them. He set apart at the beginning of each year a certain portion of his income for benevolent objects, and regarded one-tenth of a successful business man's profits as too little to be thus employed. He was interested in young men who were struggling for an education, and gave liberal aid to those who were preparing for the ministry. He had a large circle of friends, and was widely known. He married, April 30, 1829, Mary Davis, the daughter of Major Joel Davis, of Rutland, Mass., who survives him. They had two children,—Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Deacon Lyman D. Thurston, and Hon. Charles Addison Denny. He built the house in which he so long resided in 1837. He had all the qualities which made home and social life delightful. He was fond of children, and his conversation was instructive and entertaining. He died February 25, 1875, of pneumonia, after a few days' illness. It was said of him at his funeral, which was largely attended in the First Congregational Church: "He understood better than most men the truth that while men die, institutions and influences live, and was largely endowed with that rare, unselfish wisdom which qualifies one to build the foundations of the public welfare deep and enduring. The effects of this purpose, which, to a large extent, dictated the policy of his life, will be more fully understood and acknowledged in the future than they can be now, and his name will go down to posterity as one of the benefactors of the town."

He kept from January 1, 1857, to September, 1874, a personal journal, which is of great value as a record also of local and public events in one of the most eventful periods of our national history. A few days before his death he completed a transfer to this journal of the diary of his European travels, and formally concluded the series of entries with these significant words: "And here I will close this daily journal of my own private matters, which I have kept for almost eighteen years, intending it principally as a business memoranda. It has often been useful to me as a reference; but as I have fewer business transactions, and have just recorded the history of one of the most important transactions of my life—a voyage to Europe—I will here close my record, blessing God for his care and protection, not only during this voyage, but a long life, now reaching more than three-score years and ten."

DWIGHT BISCO.[1]

Dwight Bisco, who was for sixty years one of the leading citizens and business men of Leicester, was born in Spencer April 27, 1799, one of several sons of Jacob Bisco. Upon his father's farm he lived and worked until twenty-two years of age, when, with a silver dollar as his only money capital, he came to Leicester, and engaged in the employment of Cheney Hatch, one of the card-clothing manufacturers,—a business of which Leicester then had almost a monopoly. Bringing with him good character, intelligence, habits of industry and self-control, and not afraid of work, he steadily acquired skill in this intricate and difficult manufacture.

In 1826 he associated himself as partner with Isaac Southgate, Joshua Lamb, John Stone and Joseph A. Denny, another house in the same business. In 1843 Mr. Denny and he bought the interest of the other partners, and continued the business, under the name of Bisco & Denny, until Mr. Denny's death, in 1875. It was then passed on by Mr. Bisco into the hands of his sons and of Mr. Denny's only son, he continuing to occupy himself in the factory until February, 1882, when he entirely withdrew, being then in his eighty-third year.

In middle life he had invested the chief part of his savings in the Leicester Boot Company. It was unfortunate, and was brought to an end by the burning of the company's buildings and stock, September 25, 1860, inflicting on him a total loss of all he had paid in. With a quiet courage he applied himself again to business, as closely as in his youth, and was enabled to make good his loss, and to present to his eight children, at the Thanksgiving dinner-table, five hundred dollars each.

[1] By Rev. Samuel May.



Dwight Bisco



Hiram Knight

His marriage with Ruth Woodcock (daughter of John Woodcock, Sr., and sister of John, Josephus and Lucius, of the following generation), in 1826, founded a family life of great happiness and unity for more than fifty years. When they celebrated their golden wedding, January 8, 1876, "we saw them," said Rev. Mr. Coolidge, "standing together, a spectacle rarely witnessed, an unbroken family,"—parents, children and grandchildren,—a circle which death had then never entered. But in September of that year Mrs. Bisco died, with little warning; and Mr. Bisco suffered the severest loss which could possibly happen to him. He had become very deaf, and her loss was the more severe. Their children, who are all living, are Emily A., Charles D., George, John W., William, Henry, and Frederick A.; all married but William. Mr. Bisco died December 7, 1882.

He was repeatedly a selectman of the town; a director of the Leicester Bank eleven years; treasurer of the Pine Grove Cemetery Company forty years; treasurer of the Unitarian Congregational Society as long, and a deacon of that church. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1847 and '48. In a notice of him in the *Christian Register*, Mr. Abraham Firth wrote of "his marked faithfulness in all these relations, and in every sphere of life in which he moved. He was always found on the side of virtue, and of political and spiritual freedom. Brought up under the teaching of Calvinism, it never satisfied him."

One who was long in daily business association with him wrote, in the Worcester *Spy*, "he was known among his associates as an honest, upright man, of superior sense and judgment." His pastor, during his later years, wrote of him, "I have never known a truer man, nor one of greater strength of character." His first minister, at the funeral services, paid a warm tribute to his character and life. "No man in Leicester," said a fellow-citizen, "has a better record than Dwight Bisco." A memorial book of Mr. and Mrs. Bisco has been printed.

CAPTAIN HIRAM KNIGHT.[1]

Captain Hiram Knight was one of the successful business men of Leicester, who, beginning life without pecuniary advantages, have secured for themselves a handsome property. His father, Silas Knight, was a wheelwright, and in very moderate circumstances. He was a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner. He lived to the venerable age of eighty-five years and five months. His mother was seventy-six years and six months old at the time of her death. Her maiden name was Martha Goodnow.

Hiram Knight was born in Oakham, August 22, 1793. When about twenty-one years of age he came to Leicester for employment. He was married by Rev. John Nelson, D.D., April 28, 1818, to Olive Barnes. Her mother was Betsy, the daughter of William Green, who was born in Leicester in 1743, and was the son of William and Rebeckah Green. Their first home was on Main Street, in the house afterward occupied by the Leicester Boot Company. The next year he removed to the academy, of which he was steward from 1819 to 1822. In 1823 he purchased the old "Green Tavern," on the corner of Main and Paxton Streets. Here for about two years he resided, engaged during the time in the occupations of butchering, tavern-keeping and for a time was associated with Reuben Merriam in card-making and a store. In 1825 he became a member of the firm of James & John A. Smith & Co., who built and occupied the factory where the Wire Mill now stands; and also the brick factory above and the boarding-house. The history of this company, which was afterward the firm of Smith, Woodcock & Knight, and later of Woodcock, Knight & Co., is given elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Knight kept the boarding-houses for this firm till about the year 1832, when the family came back to the Green tavern. Mr. Knight was in the card business till 1867, when he transferred his interest to his sons. He, with John Woodcock and George Morse, was in partnership with James Smith & Co. at the formation of that house in Philadelphia in 1836, and retained his interest for a number of years.

The lower factory of his firm was to a considerable extent built under his supervision. He superintended the building of the Brick Factory and the boarding-house. He also had general charge of the building of the brick school-house on Pleasant Street. His own residence, on the site of the old tavern, and now occupied by his son Dexter, was erected in 1843.

Mr. Knight had agricultural tastes, and at one time had considerable land, which he cultivated and improved. He was an active member of the Worcester Agricultural Society.

He was one of the directors of the Leicester National Bank from 1850 to 1874. Between the years 1836 and 1844 he served the town in the various offices of moderator of town-meetings, selectman and assessor, etc. He was appointed justice of the peace by Governor Boutwell. He was one of the early members of the Second Congregational Society, Unitarian. In politics he was a Democrat, but reserved the right of independent thought and action. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1853. In early life he was somewhat active in military affairs, and was captain of the local military company.

Captain Knight was engaged in the manufacture of card-clothing in the period of the rapid development of that industry, when inventive genius was perfecting the wonderful machine for card-setting, of which a gentleman once said, after admiringly watching its almost human movements: "Why! it

[1] By Rev. A. H. Coolidge.

thinks!" He had not been trained to the business, but was a natural mechanic, inventive and ingenious; and though not forward in asserting his claims, made many valuable improvements in the machinery for card-making. According to the testimony of his partner, Mr. John Woodcock, he made the first card clothing set by machinery in Leicester.

Captain Knight was a man of sound judgment, self-reliant, and of strict business integrity. He gave close attention to his business and was successful. He was wise and cautious in his investments, and became one of the wealthy men of the town. For his success he was largely indebted to his wife. She was a woman of domestic tastes, and devoted herself untiringly and efficiently to the varied duties of the household, acting her part with true womanly fidelity and fortitude in all the varied experiences of the family, in prosperity and in trial and sorrow. She was married at the age of seventeen years.

They had eleven children, seven of whom died young; the three older at the ages of nine, ten and twelve years respectively. Their daughter Susan died in 1856, at the age of twenty-five. She is remembered as an excellent scholar, retiring in manners, and loved by all her associates. Three sons survive—Dexter, James J. and George M.

Captain Knight died May 6, 1875, at the age of eighty-one years and eight months. His wife survived him about four years, and died April 19, 1879, at the age of seventy-eight years.

REV. SAMUEL MAY.

Rev. Samuel May, the first minister of the Second Congregational (Unitarian) Church and Society, and who continued such for twelve years, was born in Boston, April 11, 1810, oldest son of Samuel and Mary (Goddard) May. Four years a pupil of Deacon Samuel Greele, afterwards for three years at the Public Latin School of Boston, and one year at the Round Hill School, Northampton, he was graduated at Harvard College in 1829.

After spending nearly a year in study with his cousin, Rev. Samuel J. May, at Brooklyn, Ct., he entered the Cambridge Divinity School in the fall of 1830, and was graduated there in 1833. The society at Leicester was then young, having been incorporated in April, 1833, and holding its meetings in the old Town Hall. Mr. May spent six or seven weeks in their service that autumn, then left to fulfill some other engagements, and returned in March, 1834, to begin a second engagement. That spring he received and accepted the society's call to be their minister, and was ordained as such August 13th, the services being held in the society's new church, which had been dedicated the evening previous, when the late Rev. Dr. James Walker, then of Charlestown, preached the very impressive discourse, afterwards so widely circulated by the American Unitarian Association, entitled, "Faith, Regeneration, Atonement," showing these to be successive periods and steps of the religious life.

Mr. May's ministry was one of fair success. Relations of good will and friendship were formed, which continued far beyond the term of his ministerial connection, and to the close of life of his parishioners in nearly every instance. Entire harmony of feeling existed between them, except with regard to one question, viz.: that of slavery in the United States, and whether a Christian minister should or should not take part in the effort to bring that condition of slavery to an end. Mr. May regarding it his duty to take such part, and to seek to induce his hearers to do the same, several persons were so much dissatisfied as to withdraw themselves from the society. One or more others who remained being similarly dissatisfied, Mr. May decided to resign his office rather than be a cause of division, and the connection was closed in the summer of 1846.

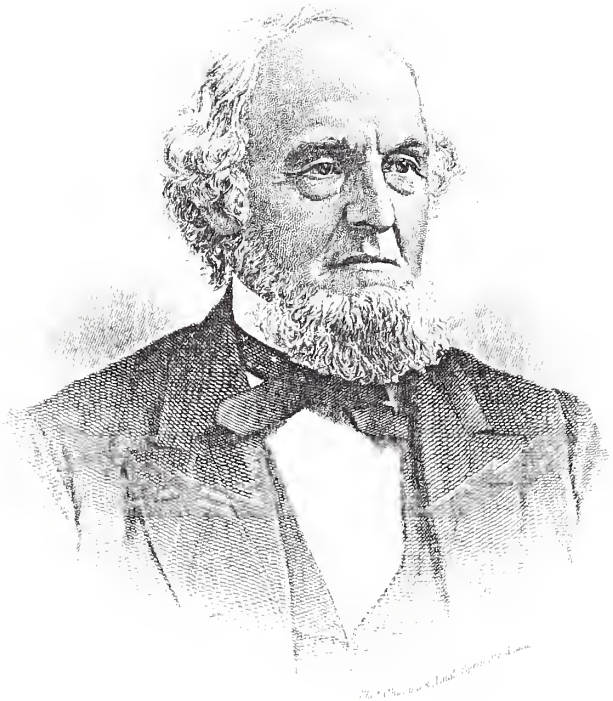
Mr. May has continued to have his residence at Leicester to the present time. In 1835 he was married to Sarah Russell, third daughter of Nathaniel P. Russell, of Boston. Their children, all born in Leicester, and still living, are Adeline, Edward, Joseph Russell, and Elizabeth Goddard. The daughters reside with their parents. Edward is a pay director of the United States Navy, and Joseph R. is in commercial life in Boston. Edward married, in 1871, Mary Mignot Blodgett, of Boston. They have four children.

Soon after resigning his position at Leicester, Mr. May was minister of the First Ecclesiastical Society, Brooklyn, Ct., until June, 1847. Then he became the general agent of the Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society. He held this place, with the exception of about a year and a half of impaired health, for eighteen years, and until 1865, the time when, by amendment of the Constitution, slavery in the United States ceased to exist. He was also, for several years, corresponding secretary of the American Anti-slavery Society.

From 1841 to 1865 Mr. May refused to take any political action under the United States Constitution because of its recognition and support of slavery—refused, that is, to vote for officers who must take an oath to support the Constitution. When the Constitution was amended he resumed the exercise of the citizen's duties. At the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, in 1861, he gave such aid as he could to the cause of the Union, and to its armies in the field, speaking and acting publicly.

He early took a decided stand against the use of intoxicating drinks; was a member of town, county and State societies formed to promote total abstinence from their use; and joined with others to establish the Leicester Hotel as a house in which no such drinks should be sold.

Mr. May served upon the town School Committee, at two different periods, for twenty-one years. He was



Pliny Earle.

chosen one of the directors of the town's public library at its establishment, in 1861, and still continues as such, having served nearly twenty-eight years. In 1874 he was elected a trustee of Leicester Academy. In 1875 he was a member of the State Legislature, representing, with Mr. Pliny Litchfield, of Southbridge, the district formed of the towns of Leicester, Spencer, Charlton, Southbridge and Auburn. As House chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations, he took an active part in the State's commemoration of the one hundredth anniversaries of the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. At the town's celebration of the centennial of American Independence, July 4, 1876, Mr. May was chairman of the town's committee. He edited the pamphlet which records in full that day's doings in Leicester.

He is a member of the American Social Science Association, of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, and of the Bostonian Society. He was chosen secretary of the Class of 1829, Harvard College, at the time of graduating, and has held the office to the present time. He aided in the compilation of the large pamphlet which records the one hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Leicester Academy, and the proceedings of that occasion, September 4, 1884.

PLINY EARLE, A.M., M.D.[1]

Dr. Pliny Earle was the fourth son of Pliny Earle, the great-grandson of Ralph Earle, who came to Leicester in 1717. His mother was the daughter of William Buffum, of Smithfield, R. I. He was born December 31, 1809, and his childhood was passed in the home of his father at Mulberry Grove. He was a pupil in Leicester Academy, and afterwards in the Friends' School, in Providence, R. I., where he was a teacher in the winter of 1828–29, and also from 1831 to 1835, when he was made principal.

He pursued the study of medicine, first with Dr. Usher Parsons, of Providence, and afterwards at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated with the degree of M.D. in 1837. The next two years were spent in Europe; one in the medical school and the hospitals of Paris, and the other in a tour of professional and general observation, "in which he visited various institutions for the insane, from England to Turkey." The results of these observations were published in 1840, in a pamphlet entitled "A Visit to Thirteen Asylums for the Insane in Europe." He had an office in Philadelphia for a short time, but in the spring of 1840 became resident physician of the Friends' Asylum for the Insane, near Frankford, now a part of Philadelphia. In 1844 he was appointed medical superintendent of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane, in New York City. In 1849 he made another tour in Europe, visiting thirty-four institutions for the insane in England, Belgium, France and the Germanic countries, and, upon his return, published his book upon "Institutions for the Insane in Prussia, Austria, and Germany." In 1853 he was elected a visiting physician of the New York City Lunatic Asylum, on Blackwell's Island.

In 1855 he returned to Leicester for rest and the confirmation of his health, and passed several years on the homestead of his grandfather, Robert Earle near Mulberry Grove (now called "Earle Ridge") During this time, however, he spent the winters of 1862–63 and 1863–64 in the care of the insane soldiers of the army and navy, at the Government Hospital for the Insane near Washington, D. C., of which his former pupil, Dr. Charles H. Nichols, was superintendent. He also wrote for the medical periodicals, and acted as an expert in the trials of several important cases involving the question of insanity before the legal tribunals of Massachusetts and the adjoining States.

It was in these years of comparative rest that he rendered the town essential service as a member of the School Committee. In this relation the writer, together with Dr. J. N. Murdock, was associated with him. In this period the public schools were subjected to a thorough reorganization, and new and more practical methods of instruction were introduced. In these services Dr. Earle exhibited the same executive force, the same mastery of details, the same practical wisdom, the same contempt of shams and ability to puncture them, and the same personal integrity and demand for strict uprightness and fidelity in those who were under his supervision, which characterized his administration of the institution in Northampton, of which he was afterward the head. In one respect he was in advance of the time. He came early to appreciate the importance of objective illustration, and the practical application of school instruction. He required pupils to use books only as instructors, and to know *things* and not mere *words*.

Without seeking the position, he was appointed superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital at Northampton, Mass., July 2, 1864, and held the office twenty-one years and three months, resigning it October 1, 1885. He made that hospital in many respects a model institution for the insane; and its trustees, in the resolutions passed at the time of their acceptance of his resignation, expressed as follows not only their own conviction, but the general judgment with reference to the value of his administration: "In its management he has combined the highest professional skill and acquirement with rare executive ability. By his patient attention to details, by his wisdom and firmness, his absolute fidelity to duty and devotion to the interests of the hospital, he has rendered invaluable service to the institution, and to the community which it serves." They also express the hope that "he will continue to make his home in the institution,

[1] By Rev. A. H. Coolidge.

that they may continue to profit by his counsels; and they will provide that his rooms shall always be open and ready for his use." This offer Mr. Earle accepted, although his summers have been spent at Mulberry Grove.

The Northampton Hospital had been erected in opposition to a widely prevalent opinion that it was not, and never could be, needed,—an opinion which delayed its construction, made the obtaining of appropriations very difficult, and finally compelled the trustees to put it in operation in a very incomplete condition, internally. The Civil War had tended to restrict the price of board for public patients to a very low limit, and in 1864, when Dr. Earle took charge of it, it had never paid its current expenses. He immediately addressed himself to the task of making it not only a first-class curative institution, but a self-supporting one as well. He purchased supplies at wholesale and in open market. He reorganized and reduced to a very complete system all the departments —domestic, economical, financial and medical—with checks and counter-checks for the detection of loss, or of waste by carelessness, as well as for the exposure of unfaithfulness in the discharge of duty toward the patients, or in other respects. The so-called "moral treatment" of the patients was amplified, made more diversified, and extended over a greater portion of the year than in any other American hospital.

The pecuniary results of this system were the payment of current expenses in the second year, and, during the whole period of Dr. Earle's service, the purchase of land at a cost of over twenty-five thousand dollars; the payment for all ordinary repairs, and over one hundred and seventy-three thousand dollars for buildings and other improvements, and an increase in cash assets and provisions and supplies of over forty-three thousand dollars, all of which became, of course, the property of the State, without any assistance from the State. The results as productive of an improved curative institution, being less tangible, cannot well be illustrated, but, as reflected in current public opinion, they were equally successful.

The importance of occupation for the insane was early recognized by Dr. Earle, and it has nowhere in New England been practically applied to a greater extent than at Northampton. As early as 1870 it was estimated that not less than two-thirds of the manual labor necessary to the running of the hospital was performed by patients.

Believing that a large part of the excessive cost of such hospitals as that at Danvers adds nothing to the curative capability of the institutions, Dr. Earle condemned such expenditure as unwise political economy, ostentatious charity and gross injustice to the payer of taxes.

Dr. Earle has been instrumental in introducing important changes in the treatment of the insane. In 1845 he established a school for the patients in the men's department of the Bloomingdale Asylum, and this was continued for two years. As early as 1840, while in the Frankford Asylum, he gave illustrated lectures on physics to the inmates. "This was the first known attempt to address an audience of the insane in any discourse other than a sermon, and has led to that system of entertainments for the patients now considered indispensable in a first-class hospital." At Northampton he gave a great variety of lectures, upon miscellaneous subjects. One course of six lectures was upon diseases of the brain, which are accompanied with mental disorder. The average number of patients who attended them was two hundred and fifty-six. "This is the first time," he says in his annual report, "that an audience of insane persons ever listened to a discourse on their own malady." His observation of the effect on the audience was not unlike that of other preachers. If the listeners were slow to take the application to themselves, they were quite ready to appropriate it "to their neighbors." He also secured lectures and entertainments from other sources, and provided amusements in which the inmates participated.

Dr. Earle is the author of many papers upon insanity and other subjects, which have been published in the *Journal of Insanity*, the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, etc. Some of these have been issued in pamphlet form. He anticipated by many years the valuable treatise of Dr. B. Jay Jeffries, in a paper on "The Inability to Distinguish Colors." His twenty-two reports of the Northampton Hospital are classics in the literature of mental disease. By a combination of causes the public, so far as they knew or cared about the subject, had come to the belief that from seventy-five to ninety per cent. of the insane can be cured at the hospital. Dr. Earle became convinced of the erroneousness of this belief, and was the first hospital superintendent who combated it. His researches upon the subject extended over a series of years, were embodied in his annual reports, and at length in 1887 collected and published by the J. B. Lippincott Company, in a book entitled "The Curability of Insanity."

The doctor showed that one cause of the false opinion in regard to curability was the reporting of repeated recoveries of the same person, in paroxysmal insanity. One patient was reported cured six times in one year, another seven times, a third sixteen times in three years, and a fourth forty-six times in the course of her life, and she finally died a raving maniac in one of the hospitals. Judging from the results of the doctor's researches, not one-third of the persons admitted to the Massachusetts insane hospitals have been permanently cured.

Of his work on The Curability of Insanity a reviewer writes: "This book may mark an epoch in the literature of insanity, since it has changed the whole front of that literature, and set in motion investigating forces which will carry out its main doc-



Joshua Murdock

trine into many useful details, upon which the veteran author has not dwelt."

He wrote the article on insanity in the United States Census of 1860, and about ninety articles of reviews and bibligraphical notices of insane hospital reports and other publications on mental disorders, which appeared in the *American Journal of Medical Science* between the years 1841 and 1870.

In a third visit to Europe, in 1871, he visited forty-six institutions for the insane in Ireland, Austria, Italy and intervening countries. His several foreign tours gave him opportunity to form the acquaintance and enjoy the hospitality of many professional, philanthropic and literary people; he was well acquainted with Elizabeth Frye, knew the poet, Samuel Rogers, and, at their homes and tables, met socially the Howitts and Charles Dickens. He also cherishes pleasant memories of American missionaries in the Levant fifty years ago; of Rev. Jonas King and other missionaries in Athens; Cephas Pasco, at Patrass; Simeon Calhoun and David Temple, of Smyrna; Wm. Goodell, Rev. Mr. Shantller and Henry A. Homes, at Constantinople. He received kind attentions from all of them, and the home hospitality of several.

Dr. Earle was one of the original members and founders of the American Medical Association, the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, the New York Academy of Medicine, and the New England Psychological Society, of which last-mentioned association he was the first president. He was also president, in the official year 1884–85, of the Association of Superintendents. Besides holding a membership of various medical societies, he is a member of the American Philosophical Society; fellow of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons; corresponding member of the New York Medico-Legal Society and the Medical Society of Athens, Greece, and honorary member of the British Medico-Psychological Association. In 1853 he delivered an adjunct course of lectures on "Mental Diseases" at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, and in 1863 he was appointed Professor of Materia Medica and Psychologic Medicine in the Berkshire Medical Institute at Pittsfield, Mass. Insanity had never before been included among the required subjects of instruction in any full professorship at any one of the American medical schools. After the delivery of one course of lectures the doctor resigned his professorship, as he had been called to the superintendency of the Northampton Hospital.

In his specialty Dr. Earle is recognized as an authority. "He was one of the medical experts summoned to the trial of Charles J. Guiteau, for the murder of President Garfield. After an attendance of one week his health gave way, and he was obliged to leave; but he approved, and still approves, the verdict which held the prisoner responsible for the homicide."

In 1888 he published a large volume on the genealogy of the Earle family, a work of great labor, and a model of its class. From this book many of the dates and material facts of this biography are taken. Dr. Earle still holds his birthright membership in the Society of Friends.

Dr. Earle's generous and valuable gift to the Academy in which he pursued his early studies has been elsewhere noticed. He has never wavered in his attachment to Leicester, and its people claim him as one of her honored sons. It is their hope that the day may yet be long deferred when it will be suitable to pronounce his eulogy, and give full expression to the general respect and regard in which he is held in his native town.

JOSHUA MURDOCK.[1]

Joshua Murdock, the principal founder of the extensive card-clothing establishment of J. & J. Murdock, was the son of Deacon Joshua Murdock. He was born in Leicester, October 3, 1815; educated in the town schools, in Leicester Academy and Amherst Academy. At the age of sixteen years he engaged himself to the firm of Smith, Woodcock & Knight, serving a regular apprenticeship of nearly five years, and remaining with them till 1838, when he entered the employ of James Smith & Co., of Philadelphia. In 1840 he returned to Leicester and commenced the card-clothing business with Samuel Southgate, Jr. As has already been stated, after the retirement of Mr. Southgate in 1844, Mr. Murdock continued in business alone till 1848, when his brother Joseph, who had been engaged in trade at the South, returned and associated himself with him under the firm name of J. & J. Murdock. He lived to see the gradual growth of the enterprise from the small beginning and to witness and enjoy its great prosperity. Mr. Murdock was for several years a selectman of the town, also a director of the National Bank and a trustee of the Savings Bank. Under the district system he was for many years the prudential committee of the centre schools. He discharged the duties of this office with exceptional wisdom and efficiency, and to him the marked excellence and improvement of the village schools at that period are largely due. He united with the First Congregational Church in Philadelphia in 1840 and removed his relation to the First Church in Leicester in 1842. He was always interested in the welfare of the church and society, and was a liberal contributor for the support of its ordinances. He was wise and cautious in judgment and was identified with all the public enterprises of the place. He was so extremely modest and retiring, he shrank so instinctively from all obtrusion upon the public, and from the expression of his views, and especially his feelings, that he was fully known only to the few who were placed in intimate relations with him. He was intelligent, sound in judgment, a man of deep and kindly feelings, and positive decision of character.

[1] By Rev. A. H. Coolidge.

Mr. Murdock was first married in Philadelphia, by Rev. Albert Barnes, D.D., June 16, 1842, to Angelina Maull, who died June 2, 1846. He was married by Rev. John Nelson, D.D., January 10, 1849, to Julia Trask, the daughter of Samuel Hurd of Leicester. Their only child Caroline, is the wife of Alexander DeWitt of Worcester. Mr. Murdock died March 27, 1883.

EDWARD SARGENT.[1]

Joseph Sargent, from whom one branch of the Sargent family in town descended, was born in Malden in 1716. According to the family tradition he accompanied his cousin Nathan Sargent, who "came to dwell in Leicester, February 28, 1741."* He was married in Leicester, January, 1746, to Hannah Whittemore. He was a most worthy citizen, for six years a selectman of the town, and always prominent in public affairs. Among his descendants have been men of more than ordinary intelligence and standing, some of whom have already been noticed in this work.

His grandson, Col. Joseph Denny Sargent, who was born in 1787 and died in 1849, was one of the most enterprising and successful business men in the town, and one of its most public spirited and highly honored citizens. He married Mindwell Jones of Spencer April 16, 1818.

Edward Sargent, the subject of this sketch, born March 25, 1832, was their youngest child. He received his education in the public schools, and in Leicester Academy.

He and his brothers Joseph Bradford and George Henry, succeeding to the business of their father, manufactured cards at the "Brick Factory" till the business was removed to their factory in Worcester, where the organizations were known as the Sargent Card Clothing Company and the Sargent Hardware Company.

With these brothers he was also associated in the manufacture of general hardware, at their very extensive works in New Haven, Conn., superintended by Joseph Bradford Sargent, born 1822, and in their large mercantile establishment in New York City, managed by George Henry Sargent, born 1829; the two concerns, closely allied and trading under the name of Sargent & Company, being the largest of their kind in the world. Mr. Sargent was connected with these companies till his death.

He passed his life in Leicester, and was one of its wealthy and valued citizens. He was a selectman of the town. He was interested in everything that related to the welfare of the place, and contributed liberally both money and personal supervision to all public improvements. He was at different times nominated as a candidate for the State Legislature, and, though not belonging to the winning party, he had the habit of running invariably beyond his ticket, in his own town, in which he was a general favorite. In the time of the Civil War he was an ardent patriot, and freely contributed to all its demands.

In 1864 Mr. Sargent completed the building of his elegant residence, opposite the attractive sheet of water on what was originally the "Town Meadow," where the beavers built their houses and dams, and through which ran "Rawson Brook," but which has long been called, after his name, "Sargent's Pond." This house is now the home of his son, J. Bradford Sargent. At the same time Mr. Sargent built his handsome stable for his horses. He was a good horseman, and, especially in the earlier years of his life, very fond of the horse and of driving. He regarded time as too valuable to be wasted in making distances on the road.

He was married, February 9, 1858, by Rev. A. H. Coolidge, to Adelaide Sophia, the daughter of Austin F., grandson of Rev. Benjamin Conklin, and Sophia (Hatch) Conklin. She was a woman of amiable and cheerful spirit and superior intelligence and worth. After twenty-three years of married life she died on the 11th day of February, 1881. They had three children,—Joseph Bradford, Winthrop (who died in childhood) and Harry Edward.

Mr. Sargent was much affected by the death of his wife, to whom he was devotedly attached, and survived her less than two years. He died January 30, 1883.

BILLINGS MANN.[1]

The village of Manville received its name from Mr. Billings Mann, to whom it is largely indebted. He, with Mr. Albert Marshall, carried on the manufacture of woolen cloth, in the first of the series of factories on Kettle Brook, on the corner of Earle and Mannville Streets. Around this mill there has gradually grown the little village that bears his name.

Mr. Marshall, a worthy and highly-esteemed citizen of the town, is still living, at an advanced age.

Mr. Mann was born in Worcester in 1797. He was the son of Joseph and Mehitable (Billings) Mann. His father was a clothier, and he worked with him dressing cloth. He thus became familiar with the details of his subsequent business. His education was that of the common school. On the 21st of July, 1822, he married Jemima, the daughter of Eliot and Jemima Wight, of Bellingham, Mass., by whom he had one daughter, who was married to Maj. Theron E. Hall. The same year, at the age of twenty-five, he began the manufacture of woolen cloth in Fitchburg. In 1828 he removed from Fitchburg to Worcester, and engaged in manufacturing with Mr. Gunn. In 1837 he was in the business in West Rutland. The next year, 1838, he first came to Leicester, and, as has been elsewhere stated, was associated with Mr. Amos Earle in the manufacture of satinets. In 1844 he associated himself with his brother-in-law, Mr. Albert Marshall, in the same business, in Holden, as

* Nathan Sargent's Diary.

[1] By Rev. A. H. Coolidge.



E. Sargent



Billings Mann



Alonzo White

the firm of Mann & Marshall. Here he remained till 1853, when, with Mr. Marshall, he came to Leicester. They purchased the mill property and commenced the manufacture of satinets, as elsewhere stated.

Mr. Mann's home, to the time of his death, was on the corner of Earle and Mulberry Streets, the former home of Pliny Earle, Senior. His first wife died September 28, 1823, and on the 21st of July, 1828, he married Harriet L., the daughter of Josiah Daniel, of Dedham, by whom he had seven daughters and three sons, two of whom, George and Billings are successors in the business. Mrs. Mann was a woman of rare excellence and beauty of character. She presided over her large household with queenly dignity and grace, and of her, with full truth, it could be said, "Her children rise up and call her blessed." She died February 20, 1878. Her illness was protracted and her sufferings intense, but she endured them with a truly Christian spirit of resignation and cheerfulness.

For nearly quarter of a century Mann & Marshall carried on a prosperous business, but after the "Boston fire," in which they were heavy losers, they were forced to abandon the enterprise, which they did in 1874.

Mr. Mann was a business man of strict integrity, and the affairs of the company, in prosperity and adversity alike, were conducted on the highest principles of business honor. He was genial and kind, and his home at Mulberry Grove was one of generous hospitality. He died December 2, 1879, and his funeral at the First Congregational Church was largely attended. He was a member of the order of Knights Templar, and he was buried with Masonic honors.

ALONZO WHITE.[1]

Alonzo White was born in Almond, Allegany County, N. Y., May 6, 1808. His father was a native of Spencer, Mass., and had emigrated to New York three months before. This was then "The West." Almond had all the characteristics of a new country. There were no school-houses, no church buildings, and few of the conveniences and comforts of older settled communities. The girls of the family rode on horse-back thirty miles to purchase their gowns; and the parish of the Presbyterian minister extended from Rochester to the Pennsylvania line.

Mr. White was born, and lived when a boy, in a log-house. He worked upon the farm until he was twenty years of age. He then determined to seek his fortune elsewhere, and first went on foot to Danville, twenty miles distant, where he earned the money for his proposed journey by carting wood, spending his extra time in making brooms. In the fall of 1828 he came to Spencer, where his uncle resided, and worked on the farm. In February of the next year he came to Leicester, and commenced his apprenticeship as a card-maker with Reuben Merriam & Co. There was then no card setting machine in the establishment, although the newly-invented machine was coming gradually into use. The holes and the teeth were made by machines and the teeth set by hand. The next year card-setting machines made by Mr. Merriam were introduced.

After remaining with Mr. Merriam a year, Mr. White was engaged at one hundred dollars per year by Colonel Joseph D. Sargent, who was then making cards on the Auburn Road, in Cherry Valley. The machines were moved by dog power. Upon Mr. Sargent's removal to the Brick Factory, Mr. White came with him, and was in his employ seven years. In 1836 he, with his partners, bought out Colonel Sargent, and commenced business as the firm of Lamb & White. Colonel Sargent highly valued the services of Mr. White, and expressed his appreciation in a substantial manner. He expressed his confidence in him at this time by furnishing him the capital for the new enterprise. Mr. White's subsequent business career is given in the notice of the firm of White & Denny, and White & Son.

Mr. White has served the town in the offices of selectman, assessor, etc. He was the contractor for the new town-house. For a short time he was a director of the bank. He united with the First Congregational Church in September, 1831.

In 1834, April 10th, he married Elizabeth Lincoln, the daughter of Aden Davis, of Oakham, Mass., by whom he has had six children, four of whom, two sons and two daughters, are living. He has been to them a generous parent, and to the community and the church a free and generous helper.

He built his house on the corner of Main and Grove Streets, in 1848. Here he, with his wife, with whom he has been united for almost fifty-five years, still reside, in the enjoyment of the fruits of their industry and enterprise, and the society of their friends. They have the satisfaction of seeing their children with their families settled in good homes of their own in Leicester.

SALEM LIVERMORE.[2]

John Livermore, ancestor of all the Livermores probably in the United States, embarked at Ipswich, Old England, for New England, in April, 1634, then twenty-eight years old, in the ship "Francis," John Cutting, master. He was admitted freeman of the Massachusetts Colony May 6, 1635. On the list of freemen his name was written Leathermore, and in other old documents and records sometimes Lethermore and Lithermore. He was a potter by trade. He was many years selectman, and filled other offices of trust and honor in Watertown, where he first settled and last resided, he being, for about eleven years, from 1639 to 1650, a resident of New Haven, Conn., after which he returned to Watertown, Mass., where he died, April 14, 1684, aged

[1] By Rev. A. H. Coolidge.

[2] By Caleb A. Wall.

seventy-eight, and his wife, Grace, died there in June, 1691. He was probably son of Peter and Marabella (Wysback) Livermore, of Little Thurloe, Suffolk County, England, about seven miles northwest of Clare. On his removal from Watertown to Connecticut he was made a freeman of that colony, October 29, 1640, and he sold out his estate in New Haven May 7, 1650, and went back to Watertown. Four of his nine children—Samuel[2], Daniel[2] and two daughters—were baptized in New Haven, and his oldest child, Hannah[2], who married John Coolidge, Jr., was born in England in 1633, the others in America. His fourth child, and oldest son, John[2] Livermore, Jr., born in 1640, settled on an estate of fifty-two acres, called the "Cowpen Farm," in Weston, near the border of Sudbury, which estate was given him by the father.

This John[2] Livermore, Jr., who was a lieutenant in the military, had in Weston, by his first wife, Hannah, who was mother of all his children, five sons and four daughters, born between 1668 and 1690, of whom the fifth child and third son was Daniel[3] Livermore, born in Weston June 8, 1677, ensign, an original proprietor and settler in Leicester before 1720, on lot No. 29, which included what has since been called Livermore Hill. This Daniel[3] Livermore died March 26, 1726, aged forty-nine, and by his wife, Mehitabel, afterwards wife of John Parmenter, of Sudbury, had five sons and three daughters, born between 1707 and 1726, as follows:

1. Daniel,[4] Jr., born in Weston June 16, 1707, by wife, Mary, had in Weston three sons and three daughters, born between 1734 and 1748; 2. Jonas[4], born in Weston May 13, 1710, married, October, 1735, Elizabeth Rice, of Sudbury, and settled near the foot of Livermore Hill, in Leicester, on the east side of the road running north and south through his father's lot, No. 29, where Jonas[4] died in 1773, and his wife died in 1790—parents, in Leicester, of five sons and three daughters; 3. Mehitabel[4], born March 13, 1713, married, May 14, 1736, Eliakim Rice, an early settler in Worcester, son of Elisha Rice, who was brother of Jonas, Gershom, James, Ephraim, Thomas and Josiah Rice, original proprietors and settlers in Worcester (see Caleb A. Wall's "Reminiscences of Worcester," pages 40 to 43); 4. Sarah[4], born March 7, 1717; 5. Isaac[4], born May 11, 1720, resided on the west side of the road, opposite his brother Jonas, near the foot of Livermore Hill, where, by his wife, Dorothy, he had four sons and two daughters; 6. Hannah[4] born April 16, 1723; 7. Abraham[4], born November 9, 1724, died of scarlet fever September 4, 1742; 8. Nathan[4], born March 26, 1726, married, May 7, 1755, Lucy Bent, of Sudbury.

The above-named Ensign Daniel[3] Livermore's sister Hannah[3], born in Weston, September 27, 1670, married, February 22, 1689, the above named Ephraim Rice, then of Sudbury, who was an original proprietor of Worcester, where his children settled, near his brothers, on Sagatabscott Hill.

Jonas[4] and Elizabeth (Rice) Livermore had in Leicester these eight children. 1. Jonas[5], Jr., born February 28, 1736, carpenter and farmer, married November 10, 1761, Sarah, daughter of Hezekiah and Sarah (Green) Ward, and resided in the south part of Leicester, near Auburn, where Jonas' son, Salem Livermore, afterwards lived, and where Jonas[5] died, January 31, 1825, aged eighty-nine, and his wife, Sarah, died Sept. 10, 1832, aged ninety-four, parents of ten children; 2. Micah[5], born in 1738, settled in Oxford; 3. Mary[5], born 1743, married Thomas Scott and resided on the estate in Auburn, near Leicester, where his father, John Scott, had lived and where Thomas' son, David Scott, Sr., afterwards lived; 4. David[5], born 1745, married, in 1770, for his first wife, Anna Heywood of Holden, and settled on the south part of lot No. 59, in Spencer, where they had seven children, and he died there December 13, 1818, and she died June 12, 1794, his second wife being her sister, Mrs. Mary Osborne, of Holden, who died January 5, 1842, aged eighty, by whom he had three children, one of them, Melinda, wife of the late Benjamin H. Brewer of Worcester; 5. Elizabeth, twin, born 1745, married Samuel Tucker, Jr., of Leicester; 6. Elisha, born 1751; 7. Beulah, born 1753, married Levi Dunton; 8. Lydia, born 1755, married Asa, son of David Pronty, of Spencer, and had there Aaron, Asa, Jr., Persis, Jonas and Joel Pronty, born between 1776 and 1784, of whom Persis was wife of Eli Muzzy, son of John Muzzy, Jr., of Spencer.

Jonas[5] and Sarah (Ward) Livermore had in Leicester these nine children:

1. Hannah, born May 13, 1762, died August 24, 1767; 2. Jonas[6], born April 13, 1764, died unmarried, at Leicester, April 20, 1790; 3. Sally, born June 28, 1766, died unmarried, February 17, 1833; 4. Patty, born October 22, 1768, married in 1791 Captain Samuel Upham, Jr., of Leicester, and removed soon after 1800 to Randolph, Vt., where he died in 1848, aged eighty-seven, the oldest of their three children being the late Hon. William Upham, Senator in Congress from Vermont, from 1843 till his decease, January 14, 1853, in Washington, aged sixty-one; 5. Salem, born September 26, 1770, married, first, Nancy Walker, who died March 2, 1838, and he married, second, Ruth Livermore, and resided on his father's estate in the south part of Leicester near Auburn, where he died April 20, 1858, father of nine children, all by his first wife; 6. Bathsheba, born July 23, 1772, married John Page and settled in Cambridge, Vt.; 7. Louisa, born April 27, 1774, died December 1800, married Abner Gale; 8. Daniel, born June 10, 1776, married May 29, 1801, Betsy, born 1777, daughter of Thomas Parker, of Leicester, and resided on the estate of his grandfather, Jonas Livermore, Sr., near the foot of Livermore Hill, where Daniel Livermore died August 31, 1869, aged ninety-three, and his wife, Betsy, died November 2, 1846, parents of Jonas Livermore, of Camden, N. J., Rev. Daniel Parker Livermore, of Melrose, Mass., Diantha, wife of Daniel Henshaw, Mary, wife of



Salem Summer

David McFarland, late of Worcester, and Eliza, residing with her brother, Rev. Daniel P., in Melrose; 9. Rebecca, born November 13, 1778, married Lebbeus Turner, from Bennington, Vt., and had in Leicester, Stillman, now deceased, Jerusha, now in Spencertown, N. Y., Caroline, wife of Dexter Converse, and Roxana, wife of Thomas Wall, all now deceased.

Salem[6] and Nancy (Walker) Livermore had in Leicester these nine children:

1. Mary, born August 25, 1795; died September 6, 1841; married Jonathan Warren, and had, in Leicester, Jonas L. Warren, formerly railroad station agent at Rochdale; now in Shirley.

2. Sarah, born August 31, 1797; died May 1, 1827; married, August 10, 1823, Samuel Bottomly (his first wife), and had a daughter, Sarah, who married a Schofield.

3. Nancy, born October 13, 1800; died December 27, 1875; married, first, Moses Rockwood, of Grafton, and had John, Angeline and David Rockwood; married, second, February, 1837, Stephen Adams, and had, in Paxton, Maria, June and Aaron Adams.

4. Hannah, born May 21, 1804; died July 29, 1836; married, January 9, 1828, Samuel Bottomly, and had, in Cherry Valley, Cornelia, Sarah, Levinah and Nancy Bottomly.

5. Thomas, born September 7, 1805; died young.

6. Salem, Jr., born April 23, 1809; died in Rochdale Village March 4, 1865; married, November 26, 1833, Roxa Darling, their only child being their son, Thomas Salem Livermore, born July 22, 1836; married, September 26, 1871, Mary Symons, daughter of John H. and Sarah (Crossley) Symons, of Rochdale, and owns and occupies the homestead erected by his father in Rochdale Village, nearly opposite the railroad depot.

7. Seraph, twin of Salem, Jr., born April 23, 1809; married James Hollingsworth, and died April 4, 1832.

8. Tamason, born May 28, 1812; married Liberty Beers, and died February 8, 1840.

9. Moses, born March 11, 1815; died June 20, 1854; resided on his grandfather's old place, near Auburn.

Rev. Daniel P. Livermore, son of Daniel[5] and Betsy (Packer) Livermore, of Leicester, is a Universalist clergyman in Melrose, ordained in 1841. He married, May 6, 1845, Mary, daughter of Timothy and Zebiah Vose (Ashton) Rice, of Boston; since that time distinguished as an eloquent lecturer and speaker on temperance, women's rights and other reforms. Their two surviving children are: Mary Elizabeth and Henrietta W., the latter wife of John Oscar Norris, master of East Boston High School.

Dexter and Caroline (Livermore) Converse resided in Leicester, near Charlton, where they had a family of twelve children, among their sons being Edmund, Harrison and Lebbeus T. Converse, of Worcester.

Salem[7] Livermore, Jr., like his father and grandfather before him, was a carpenter, as well as a thrifty and industrious farmer and operator in real estate, in which kinds of business Salem, Jr., is well represented by his son, Thomas S. Livermore, who succeeded to and improves upon the five hundred acres of land in Leicester, Oxford and Auburn, including the homestead at Rochdale Village, on which he resides with his mother. Jonas[5] Livermore, Jr., was originally a Baptist, one of the pillars of the old Greenville Church; his son, Salem, Sr., was a Universalist, as well as the latter's brother Daniel, and Salem, Jr., was a member of the Episcopal Church at Rochdale.

Thomas S. Livermore has a specialty in the musical line, having officiated in a choir since he was fourteen years of age, and for the past few years he has been chorister and organist of the Unitarian Church at Leicester.

APPENDIX.

MANUFACTURING BUSINESS.

Several Statements are here added, to render more nearly complete the History of Manufacturing and of Manufacturing Firms in Town.

THE EARLY MANUFACTURE OF MACHINE CARDS.

BY DR. PLINY EARLE.

For many years it has generally been believed, by persons interested in the subject, that the first machine cards manufactured in Leicester were those made by Pliny Earle, for the machines constructed by Samuel Slater, after the formation of a business connection between the said Slater and the firm of Almy & Brown, of Providence, R. I. Letters are still in existence by which the incorrectness of this belief is clearly demonstrated, and which show that Pliny Earle made machine cards before the arrival of Mr. Slater in America.

Under date of 11th Mo. [November] 4th, 1789, Almy & Brown ordered a set of cards of the said Earle, and in their letter alluded to a set which he had previously made for a company in Worcester.

On the 14th of the next month, December, 1789, Pliny Earle's brother Silas wrote, from Leicester, to their brother Jonah, then residing in New York City, as follows: — "Pliny is going to set off for Providence day after to-morrow morning, to put on long cards on to Almy and Brown's machine."

On the "7th of 1st Mo. [January] 1790," Pliny Earle wrote, from Providence, to his brother Jonah, in New York City, as follows: — "I have lately covered a Carding Machine for Moses Brown, here, which I have £18–18s–0d for doing, in cash. I expect now to agree with another man to cover a machine for him which he will pay cash for. Moses Brown's machine will card at a great rate — they tell me six or seven pounds an hour."

Two months and five days later, that is, on "3d Mo. [March] 12th, 1790," writing again from Providence to his brother Jonah in New York, Pliny Earle made the following statement: — "I have just finished* a carding machine, to-day, for one Potter, in this town, for which I have received the cash. I have a machine to do in Worcester by the 25th of this month."

Samuel Slater landed in New York on the 11th of November, 1789, just one week *after* Almy & Brown ordered the cards for their machine. Three weeks afterward, on the 2d of December, he first wrote to Moses Brown seeking employment. Brown's reply to this letter was written on the 10th of December, which was but six days before Pliny Earle, according to the letter of his brother Silas, went to Providence to put the cards upon Almy & Brown's machine.

We here have sufficient proof that Pliny Earle had engaged in the making of machine cards before the advent of Samuel Slater in America. But the machine cards made by him, or by any other person in the United States, anterior to that time, were not set in the "twilled" or "wailed" style, as they are now, but in the style called "plain", which is still retained for hand cards. The first "twilled" cards made in this country were those made by Pliny Earle for Samuel Slater, or for the business firm of Almy, Brown & Slater; and the fact that there was no machine for pricking in that style, in America, made it

* That is, finished putting the cards upon it.

necessary that those cards should be pricked by hand. This work was done by Pliny and Jonah Earle, each of them using a pricker which consisted solely of two needles set in a handle, like an awl.

We have not the date at which Mr. Slater became connected with the firm of Almy & Brown, nor that at which he engaged Mr. Earle to make the cards for him; but, under date of "5th Mo. [May] 9th, 1790," Pliny Earle, in a letter to his brother Jonah, still in New York, says "have got our Pricking Machine done, it is made with a pair of crooked Pincers which go through the Bench and the Handles come out the under side, so that it shuts down on the back side of the Leather and holds it; it is a very good machine indeed."

This "machine" was apparently a simple device for holding the leather firmly in place while the holes were pricked by hand, with the two needles in a handle. Jonah Earle undoubtedly returned to Leicester soon after this letter was written, for it is known, as stated above, that he assisted his brother in the tedious work of pricking Slater's cards. The experience gained by this work led Pliny Earle to the invention of his machine for pricking "twilled" cards, for which he obtained a patent in 1803. The important principle involved in this machine is described in a written statement made by Pliny Earle, under date of "4th Mo. [April] 2d, 1804." It is as follows:—

"I was undoubtedly the first man in America, and, for aught I know, the first in the world, who made cards with a machine moving the leather side-wise, until the pricker strikes six times through the leather; it then falls back, and so continues to operate, falling back once for every six strokes of the pricker until completed."

The original letters here quoted are in the keeping of the Worcester Society of Antiquity, with the exception of that from Silas to Jonah Earle, which is in the hands of Stephen C. Earle, of Worcester.

While it is true, as stated in the history, that thirty years ago White & Denny's card factory was the only one in which steam was used, it is also true that Pliny Earle had long before used steam as motive power, having introduced it in 1824.

BUSINESS CHANGES AND OTHER ITEMS.

H. G. Henshaw began his wire business April 18, 1844. Ichabod and Charles Washburn were afterward admitted, the firm name being H. G. Henshaw & Co., Mr. Henshaw retaining ownership of the machinery. The machinery was sold to Myrick & Sugden, then established in Spencer, and in 1852 the copartnership of Henshaw, Myrick & Sugden was formed for a period of six years, which expired in 1858.

In the *Dickinson Mill* (Collier's Mill, p. 36), Hiram Morse carried on the business of cabinet making, and appears to have been succeeded by Sabin A. Morse.

Valley Woolen Mills.— The manufacture of woolen cloth was carried on at the Valley Woolen Mills, from 1845 to 1857, by Effingham Capron; from 1857 to 1858 by Caleb Capron; and from 1859 to 1860 by Stitt & Brown, of Philadelphia. Lapham & Smith commenced operations May 1, 1889.

A. Hankey & Co.—Frank P. Rogers was admitted to the firm of A. Hankey & Co., manufacturers of machine knives, April 1, 1889.

The Leicester Wire Company suspended operations in 1889, and the plant was purchased by the Electric Company, June 1, 1889.

Leicester Hotel. Early in the year 1889, James I. Murry and J. D. Parmelee, as the firm of Murry & Parmelee, became proprietors of Leicester Hotel.

The Chapel Mill was sold by Collier & Butler, December 1, 1889, to Newton Darling, who began business in it January 1, 1890.

H. A. White Manufacturing Company.— The new and improved plant and the successful business of the Leicester branch of Decker & Bonitz Card Clothing Company, built and managed under the supervision of H. Arthur White, during the two previous years, was purchased by him January 1, 1890, and a company was organized under the laws of the State of Maine, as the H. A. White Manufacturing Company, with a capital of eighty thousand dollars. The company retains the right of use in Mr. Decker's patents on "needle point card clothing." H. Arthur White is President and Treasurer and his son Everett A. White Secretary of this company, which is the successor of the well known firms of A. White & Son, and White &

Denny, whose history is given on pages 32 and 33.

More than fifty years ago, Eber Bond had a brick kiln west of Henshaw Pond, where were made the bricks of which several of the houses in the village were built.

The first yarn carpets made in town, the work, as has been before stated, of Mrs. David Bryant, were woven on a hand loom, as early as 1805. Similar carpets may before this have been in use, but if so they were a rare and special luxury.

REVOLUTIONARY ITEMS.

The journals of the Provincial Congress, and of the Committee of Safety and Supplies, contain frequent mention of responsibilities imposed upon prominent citizens of Leicester, and requirements upon the town. They indicate the confidence which was reposed alike in the wisdom of their counsels, and the loyalty of their spirit; and, together with the records of the town, show that the impending struggle had been early anticipated, and that unusual provision had been made by the town to meet it.

March 4, 1771, the town appropriated twelve pounds "to purchase One Hundred weight of Powder & bullets & flints in Proportion." November 7, 1774 it was voted "to provide two half bl-s of powder and four hundred Weight of Shott or Balls for the Cannon in this town." At the same time a committee was chosen "to offer the non-consumption Covenant to those who have not signed the same." January 9, 1775, it was voted "that there be a Minute Company in this Town, and that the Militia thereof be called together, from whence a number be drafted for said company."

February 21, 1775, the Committee of Safety and Supplies "voted unanimously, that the powder that is now in Concord, be removed to Leicester." February 24, they voted "that eight field pieces, with shot and cartridges, and two brass mortars with their bombs be deposited at Leicester, with Col. Henshaw." April 14, "Voted, That the cannon powder now at Leicester be removed, one load at a time, to this town [Concord], and made into cartridges, under the direction of the Committee of Supplies." April 17, "Voted That all the ammunition be deposited in nine different towns in this province." Also "Voted, That the vote of the fourteenth instant, relating to the powder being removed from Leicester to Concord, be reconsidered." Also "Voted that eleven hundred tents be deposited in equal parts in Worcester, Lancaster, Stow, Mendon, Leicester, and Sudbury."

May 25, 1775, the Provincial Congress "drafted" powder from towns "well stocked," and Leicester was required to furnish one barrel, for which payment was to be made. At the same time, inhabitants of towns having "good and sufficient firelocks," were requested to dispose of them to a committee appointed by the Congress, to supply unarmed soldiers, receiving in payment "bills of credit." Leicester was asked to furnish twelve.

July 5, 1775, the Provincial Congress voted to provide thirteen thousand coats, to be furnished by the several towns, before the tenth day of August next, in proportion "as they paid to the last provincial tax," "laying their accounts before the Committee of Supplies." Of these Leicester was to furnish forty-one. The Committee of Safety was "to cause all the coats to be buttoned with pewter buttons," with a number corresponding to that of the regiment.

During the occupation of Boston by the British forces, the attention of the Provincial Congress was repeatedly called to the need of those who were thus cut off from the means of support. At the town meeting held Dec. 7, 1774, it was voted "that the town recommend a subscription for the relief of the Poor in the town of Boston, suffering in the common cause." Permission having at length been obtained of Gen. Gage, the Provincial Congress arranged to remove them, and distribute them among the towns. There were reported to be "about five thousand," "indigent and unable to be at the expense of removing themselves." Thirty-six were assigned to Leicester.

On the first of July, 1775, the Congress, on account of the distressed condition of the inhabitants of the town of Charlestown, after the battle of Bunker Hill, "resolved, That such of those inhabitants as are unable to remove or support themselves, be removed to the several towns of Worcester County." Twelve were assigned to Leicester. How many of these persons, if any, actually came to Leicester does not appear.

There is nothing to indicate that that typical structure of New England towns, the "powder house", ever existed in Leicester. Ammunition was, however, for many years, stored in the old hearse house at Rawson Brook Cemetery.

CENSUS.

It was not till 1724 that the required number of fifty families had settled in the eastern part of the town. In 1765 the population of the town, which at that time included parts of Paxton and Ward (now Auburn), was 763. In 1776, the number in Leicester was 1078. In 1786 it appears to have been reduced to 838. According to the United States census, the population in the following decades was in 1790, 1076; in 1800, 1,103; in 1810, 1,181; in 1820, 1,252; in 1830, 1,782; in 1840, 1,707; in 1850, 2,269; in 1860, 2,748; in 1870, 2,768; in 1880, 2,779; in 1885 according to the census of Massachusetts it was 2,923.

THE NAME CHERRY VALLEY.

Although the eastern village of the town does not appear to have been commonly called Cherry Valley till nearly the end of the first quarter of the present century, the name was given to it in the last century, as we learn from the manuscripts of Miss Anna Henshaw, written in 1846, and containing materials of special value to local genealogists and historians.

"Asa Sargent m. Charlotte Earle and resides in Cherry Valley, Leicester. 'Cherry Valley' is a name given to that locality by the late Rev. Mr. Conklin (of pleasant memory) after Cherry Valley on Long Island, New York. Mr. Conklin considered it at that time the 'pleasantest place in Leicester.'"

Anna Henshaw was born in 1778, and was therefore a contemporary of Rev. Benjamin Conklin, who died in 1798. She was a relative of Mrs. Conklin.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Before 1831, the State Legislature met on the last Wednesday of May, and representatives were elected in May.

In 1831 the time of meeting was changed to the first Wednesday of January, and members have since been elected in November. The following list contains the names of persons who have served the town in the Legislature, with the year in which they were elected, to serve at the next session. Spencer is included in the district till 1776. This list, made from the records of the town, and in doubtful instances verified by those of the state, will be found to differ, in a few cases, from that of Washburn's History :—

Senators :—	
Col. Seth Washburn,	1780 to 1787.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny,	1823 and 1824.
Hon. Waldo Flint,	1835 and 1836.
Capt. John D. Cogswell,	1863.
Hon. Chas. A. Denny,	1883 and 1884.
House of Representatives :—	
Judge John Menzies,	1721 to 1723.
Lieut. Thomas Newhall,	1724.
Judge John Menzies,	1725.
Josiah Converse,	1733.
Christopher J. Lawton,	1736.
Christopher J. Lawton,	1741 and 1742.
Capt. Daniel Denny,	1745 to 1747.
Capt. John Brown,	1749 and 1750.
Judge Thomas Steele,	1752 to 1755.
Capt. John Brown,	1756 and 1757.
Benjamin Tucker,	1758 and 1759.
Capt. John Brown,	1761 and 1762.
Capt. John Brown,	1764 and 1765.
Capt. John Brown,	1767 and 1768.
Col. Thomas Denny,	1770 to 1774.
First Provincial Congress :—	
Col. Thomas Denny, Col. Joseph Henshaw,	1774.
Second Provincial Congress :—	
Col. Joseph Henshaw,	1775.
Third Provincial Congress :—	
Deacon Oliver Watson,	1775.
General Assembly :—	
Hezekiah Ward,	1775.
House of Representatives :—	
Capt. Seth Washburn,	1776.
Capt. Seth Washburn, Capt. Samuel Green,	1777.
Capt. Seth Washburn,	1778 and 1779.
Col. William Henshaw, Capt. Seth Washburn,	1780.
Capt. Seth Washburn,	1782 and 1783.
Capt. Seth Washburn, Capt. John Lyon,	1786.
Col. Samuel Denny,	1787.
Capt. Seth Washburn,	1788.

Col. Thomas Denny,	1791 and 1792.
Col. Thomas Denny,	1794.
Col. William Henshaw,	1796, 1798.
Col. Thomas Denny,	1800, 1801.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny,	1803 to 1806.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny,	1808.
John Hobart,	1809 and 1810.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny,	1811.
Dr. Austin Flint,	1812 to 1817.
John King,	1819 and 1820.
John Hobart,	1821 and 1822.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny,	1825.
Hon. Emory Washburn,	1826 and 1827.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny,	1828.
John Hobart,	1829.
Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny, Hon. Waldo Flint,	1830.
John Hobart, Deacon John King,	1831.
Hon. Waldo Flint, Deacon Joshua Murdock,	1832.
Reuben Merriam, Deacon Joshua Murdock,	1833.
Silas Earle, Cheney Hatch,	1834.
Cheney Hatch, Thomas Sprague,	1835.
Thomas Sprague, Capt. Isaac Southgate,	1836.
Samuel Watson, Col. Joseph D. Sargent,	1837.
Samuel Watson, Capt. Isaac Southgate,	1838.
Capt. Isaac Southgate, Hon. David Henshaw,	1839.
Nathaniel P. Denny, Esq.	1840.
John Sargent,	1841 and 1842.
John Woodcock,	1843 and 1844.
Col. Joseph D. Sargent,	1845.
Henry A. Denny,	1846.
Deacon Dwight Bisco,	1847 and 1848.
Samuel Watson,	1849 and 1850.
Abraham Firth,	1851.
Capt. John D. Cogswell,	1854.
Lucius Woodcock,	1855.
Hanson L. Read,	1856.
Joseph A. Denny, Esq.	1857.
Capt. John D. Cogswell,	1859 to 1861.
Josephus Woodcock,	1863 to 1865.
Lory S. Watson,	1867 to 1869.
Luke G. Sturtevant,	1871.
Christopher C. Denny,*	1872.
Rev. Samuel May,	1874.
Capt. John D. Cogswell,	1876.
William F. Holman,	1880.
Dr. John N. Murdock,	1883.
H. Arthur White,	1885.
Henry O. Smith, Esq.	1888.

At the election, May 11th, 1829, Hon. David Henshaw, then a resident of Boston, tendered a printed ballot for representatives to the General Court. Before that time all ballots cast in the state were written by hand. His vote was rejected as not conforming to the law requiring "written votes". He brought the question before the Supreme Court, which, at the March session, 1830, decided that "the rejection of the plaintiff's vote was illegal," on the ground that printed votes are written votes, within the meaning of the provisions of the constitution.

COLLEGE GRADUATES.

The following list contains the names of natives of Leicester who have been graduated from colleges:

St. John Honeywood, Yale, 1782; lawyer in Salem, N. Y., painter and poet.

Hon. Nathaniel Paine Denny, Harvard, 1797; lawyer in Leicester, for ten years member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and two years of the Senate; second President of Leicester Bank.

Samuel Swan, Harvard, 1799; lawyer in Hubbardston.

Daniel Henshaw, Harvard, 1806; lawyer in Winchendon and Worcester, and editor of the "Lynn Record," and "The Yeoman" in Worcester.

Reuben Washburn, Dartmouth, 1808; lawyer and judge in Vermont.

Thomas G. Mower, Harvard, 1810.

Waldo Flint, Harvard, 1814: lawyer in Leicester and Boston, president of Eagle Bank, Boston.

John F. Adams, Dartmouth, 1817; lawyer in Mobile.

Emory Washburn, Williams, 1817; lawyer in Leicester and Worcester, Governor of Massachusetts, Bussey Professor in Dane Law School, Harvard University.

Josiah Clark, Jr., Yale, 1823; Principal of Leicester Academy, and Williston Seminary.

* To fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr Sturtevant's resignation.

Thomas Denny, Harvard, 1823; banker in New York.
Winthrop Earle, Jr., Yale, 1826.
Andrew Denny, M. D., Amherst, 1831; physician in Jackson, Ala.
Joseph Sargent, M. D., Harvard, 1834; physician in Worcester.
Henry Sargent, M. D., Yale, 1841; physician in Worcester.
William A. Smith, Harvard, 1843; for many years assistant Clerk of Courts in Worcester County.
John Sydenham Flint, M. D., Harvard, 1843; physician in Roxbury.
Daniel Nelson Merriam, Amherst, 1844.
John Newton Murdock, M. D., Williams, 1846; physician in Auburn and Paxton, card manufacturer in Leicester.
Arthur S. Denny, Brown, 1854.
Frank W. Hayden, Holy Cross, 1867; surgeon in the French Army.
Henry Oliver Smith, Amherst, 1863; lawyer in Leicester.
Joseph Augustus Titus, Amherst, 1863; lawyer in Worcester.
Horace Anthony Smith, Amherst, 1864; shoe manufacturer in Leicester.
Rev. Albert Warren, Yale, 1867.
Arthur H. Warren, Yale, 1870.
Daniel Kent, Amherst, 1875; woolen manufacturer in Leicester and Worcester.
Sara Brainerd Coolidge, Wellesley, 1885; preceptress of Leicester Academy.
Edward Lester Marsh, Amherst, 1888.
John Nelson Coolidge, Amherst, 1889.
Everett Alonzo White, Amherst, 1889.

TOWN HOUSES.

Town and Military meetings were for more than a hundred years generally held in the First Meeting-house.* This was also the place for all public assemblies, and here were held the exhibitions of the Academy. In 1826, a town hall and bank building of two stories was erected, the bank occupying the lower floor. It was built of wood. It was dedicated Jan. 1, 1827. The address was by Hon. Emory Washburn.

The present town-house, built of brick, two stories, was dedicated May 21, 1855. The lower floor was occupied as engine house, fire company's parlors, selectmen's room, etc., and the upper floor as the town hall. In 1872, the lower rooms were remodelled, and a Memorial Hall was finished in memory of the soldiers of the civil war, and for the use of the public library. In this hall are the marble tablets containing the names of soldiers who died in the service, thirty-seven in number. The hall was dedicated Dec. 23, 1872, addresses being made by Rev. S. May, Capt. J. D. Cogswell, Mr. William F. Holman, Mr. H. A. White, Mr. John E. Russell and Rev. A. H. Coolidge, and a poem read by Mrs. Jerome M. Parker. An engine house was at the same time built in the rear of the town-house, and connected with it. Steam heat and electric lights were introduced in 1889.

* In the early years, town meetings were sometimes held in the taverns or in private houses.

SOUTHGATE FUND.

According to the provisions of the will of Capt. Isaac Southgate, of Leicester, a fund of $3,000 was placed in the hands of Joseph A. Denny, Silas Gleason and Dwight Bisco, as trustees, the income of which was to be "for the use and benefit of indigent maidens, widows and orphans, who are actually legal inhabitants of the said Leicester, and not otherwise." This "assistance," is to be "rendered in every case" —"without partiality or distinction of party or sect," to "those who are actually needy and striving to help themselves without charge to the town."

The trustees received the fund April 2, 1861. In 1863, Mrs. Maria Southgate, the widow of Capt. Isaac Southgate, added to it one thousand dollars. The fund has since been increased $400 by legacy of Dr. Ames Walbridge, $1500 by legacy of Mrs. Sally Denny, widow of Mr. John Alden Denny, and $1000 by donation of Mrs. John E. Russell (Caroline Nelson).

D. E. Merriam left to the fund in his will $5000. The fund has also been increased by changes of investment. Its present amount including the legacy of Mr. Merriam is 12,440.76. The trustees at this time are . . Mr. Dexter Knight and Hon. C. A. Denny.

This noble charity has already proved most beneficent, and is continually approving the wisdom of its institution.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

There were several purchasers of original lots who never settled in town. In addition to

those named in Washburn's History were Samuel Prince, and probably Paul Dudley.

Rev. David Parsons, the first minister of Leicester, was married in Springfield, Mass., Oct. 22, 1707, to Sarah Stebbins of that town.

The Friends Meeting house was taken down in 1876.

G. A. R.—Post 131 of the Grand Army of the Republic, the "George H. Thomas Post," was chartered in Leicester, June 21, 1870.

Leicester Public Library.—At the town-meeting held March 4, 1889, the Public Library was reorganized, under the new State law, with six Trustees, two to be chosen each year, to serve three years.

Leicester Academy.—Mrs. Maria Southgate, in 1863, gave to the Academy $1000 as a fund to be known "as the Southgate Fund," to aid in the payment of the tuition of needy students from Leicester, in the departments of languages, and the higher English branches.

Robert Earle also left to the Academy $2000, for purposes similar to those of the Newhall Fund.

Streets.—All the roads were named as streets, by vote of the town, March 6, 1882.

In the spring of 1880, concrete walks were laid on the east side of Pleasant Street, and in the spring of 1883 and the summer of 1885 on Main Street, the expense being met by private subscription.

Pleasant Street was first lighted for a few years, about twenty years ago, at the expense of families residing on it. At the annual town-meeting, November 8, 1881, it was voted to authorize the selectmen to light the streets of the several villages, whenever citizens should set up street lanterns. The vote was carried into effect in the Centre, Cherry Valley, Rochdale, and Greenville villages in December following. Gasoline and kerosene were, for several years alternately used for the purpose.

At the town-meeting held March 4, 1889, the selectmen were authorized to contract with the Leicester Electric Company, to light the public streets with electricity. The streets of the Center, Cherry Valley, Rochdale, and Greenville villages were first generally illuminated with incandescent lights, August 13, 1889.

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CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Page 3, line 95, Read thirty-seven.

Page 12, line 30. Ununiformed.

Page 21, line 39, Comer for Converse, and Foster for Forbes.

Page 36, line 9, Insolvent for Solvent.

Page 37, Omit Amasa Watson.

Page 43, Read George M. Roberts.

Page 49, line 26, Read 1834.

Capt. John Chandler was on the committee to determine which half of the township should first be settled. (p. 3.)

It was *Pling* Earle (p. 2.) whose estate was named Mulberry Grove, and on his machines (p. 34), that L. S. Watson pricked cards.

Rev. Mr. Goddard's name should be associated with that of Jonathan Edwards on page 18, Joseph A. Denny was the great grandson of Daniel Denny (p. 51.)

It should perhaps be more deffinitely stated on page 25, that the first school master in town was John Lynde, Jr., son of John Lynde, who came to Leicester before 1721.

To the names of the children of Dea. Dwight Bisco, (p. 53), should be added that of Edward F., secretary of the Worcester Safe Deposit and Trust Company.

To the names of soldiers in the Civil War, are here added those of Rev. J. Hill Rouse, who is noticed on page 23; Dr. George O. Warner, noticed on page 46; James Palmer, 51st Massachusetts Regiment, who enlisted for Worcester.

In a few instances of misprint, the correct spelling and middle initials of names are given, and the errors noted in the index.

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